Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-072 *16 April 1993*

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Cuba

UN General Assembly Approves Emergency Aid

FL1604020493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Today, the UN General Assembly approved emergency aid to Cuba as a result of the extensive damages caused by the so-called storm of the century that hit in March. The resolution for aid was considered by the international forum at the insistence of the Latin American Regional Group [GRULA], whose members expressed deep concern for the devastation caused by the atmospheric phenomenon.

The approved resolution declares its solidarity with the Cuban Government and people in its hour of need and recognizes the efforts of those responsible for national resources to help and render emergency assistance to those affected by the storm. It also praises the efforts of the international community to finish the operations of help and assistance to Cuba and asks UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to, in cooperation with the bodies and organizations belonging to the UN system, and in strict cooperation with government authorities, to render assistance to the recovery efforts that the Havana government is carrying out.

The document also asks all states and international organizations to provide emergency support to Cuba so as to alleviate the difficult situation that the affected Cuban population finds itself, including its economic and financial burden.

Carlos Amor, Cuban alternate permanent ambassador, thanked GRULA and all those who cosponsored the resolution for presenting this initiative for the consideration of the General Assembly. The Cuban diplomat said that the resolution is one more gesture of human solidarity and cooperation between nations and should be the basis for UN action. He also thanked countries and international organizations for the concern and help rendered.

The so-called storm of the century, which also affected the U.S. east coast, caused $1 billion in damages in Cuba, killed five, injured 95, and victimized 147,000 people, with severe damages in agriculture among other things.

According to the report of the Cuban mission to the United Nations, among the things needed immediately are powdered milk, medicine, antibiotics, anti-inflamitories, analgesics, pesticides, fertilizers, canned food, and vegetable oil.

Sugar, Oil Cooperation Protocol Signed With Iran

FL1604011593 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Just minutes ago, a protocol was signed by the fourth joint intergovernmental commission of economic cooperation between Cuba and Iran. The main purpose of the protocol is to increase bilateral exchanges of sugar and oil between Cuba and Iran. It also provides for the construction of sugar mills by Cuban specialists in Iran, the commercialization of products of the pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries, and the dispatch of medical personnel to the Islamic country.

The document, signed just minutes ago, was signed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Iranian Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari.

Turkish Prime Minister, Zimbabwean President Congratulate Castro

FL1504160393 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has congratulated Commander in Chief Fidel Castro for his reelection as president of the Council of State. In addition to expressing his best wishes for Fidel's health and happiness, the Turkish leader has expressed his best wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the Cuban people.

For his part, Zimbabwean President Robert Gabriel Mugabe said the reelection of the chief of the revolution is [word indistinct] evidence of the immense trust the Cuban people place in Fidel as a sagacious leader and tireless revolutionary.

In a message signed by its highest leaders, the Organization for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia and Africa [name as heard] has also congratulated the Cuban president.

Agreement To Send Physicians to Zambia Signed

FL1504160593 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] A contingent of Cuban physicians will be going to Zambia under the terms of the agreements signed in Havana at the end of the visit by Zambian Health Minister Boneface Kawimbe. A group of specialists has already been chosen, and I can report that the first 60 physicians will be in Lusaka by (?July).

This was announced during a meeting with the press by Kawimbe. He also announced that the agreements signed with the Cuban health authorities provide for sending up to 200 medical specialists to Zambia under a contract that provides for Zambia's economic compensation to Cuba for these services. He also revealed that Cuba and Zambia have laid the foundations for positive cooperation between the psychiatric hospitals of Havana and Lusaka and that (?he) is contemplating having specialists from the Cuban facility move to the Zambian capital soon.

Ship for Transporting Chemical Products Arrives From Germany

FL1504160693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1406 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] The Caribbean Flower [name in English], a modern specialized vessel for transporting chemical products, has arrived in Havana from Germany where it was built. With a dead weight of 687 tons, the ship is 62 meters long and 10 meters wide. The ship reaches a (?cruising) speed of 12 knots and has five commercial tanks. It is staffed by 16 crew members, among them two women.

The Caribbean Flower is an automated vessel, outfitted in compliance with international requirements. Communication is effected by means of satellites, as is navigation, which permits rapidity and precision in both tasks. Humberto Alanguren, captain of the Caribbean Flower, said it is a comfortable, safe vessel with a very professional crew.

Commentary Rejects THE MIAMI HERALD's Report on Drug Trafficking

PA1604005493 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Apr 93

["Our America" commentary by Amalia Sammartino]

[Text] Only a few days ago THE MIAMI HERALD published a report to the effect that federal prosecutors in Miami were preparing a case against 15 Cuban officials implicated in the shipment of almost eight tons of cocaine to the United States between 1980 and 1990. The U.S. newspaper adds that an eventual indictment would be based on Colombian drug trafficker Carlos Lehder's testimony during the trial of Panama's former Defense Forces Chief Manuel Noriega.

Centuries ago, due to its geographic position, Cuba was the starting point for the Spanish conquest of new territories. Later, corsairs, filibusters, and pirates sought shelter in Cuba or used the Cuban coasts for all sorts of operations. Unfortunately, the final decades of the 20th century are seeing the emergence, despite national and international (?efforts), of a new type of adventurer, drug traffickers, who are trying to take advantage of Cuba's favorable geographical position to ship their dangerous merchandise to the United States, which is the leading consumer market.

Because it is located in what for centuries has been described as the key to the Gulf of Mexico, the island is a temptation for drug traffickers but not for the revolutionary government, which can proudly say that the country does not produce, transport, or consume illicit drugs. This can easily be proven by anyone who visits the country. But I might add that for over 20 years Cuba has used the same resources it uses to defend its territorial integrity to deal with drug traffickers who have attempted to use its waters or jurisdictional air space to ship illegal merchandise between the southern and northern parts of the continent.

The report published by THE MIAMI HERALD is not new. Every now and then, recalcitrant sectors of U.S. right wing and resentful Cuban exile groups conduct an alleged offensive against Cuba, using the worn out drug-trafficking issue. Nevertheless, tangible evidence of these accusations has never been produced by the accusers, which therefore, immediately discredits them.

For those who periodically accuse Cuba of being involved in drug trafficking, it must be said that according to reports by the Republic's federal customs, in 1992 alone 1,500 kg of cocaine and 1,700 kg of marijuana were seized and incinerated on the island. Most of the confiscated drugs reached Cuba's coasts because of failed operations by international criminals attempting to ship the drugs to U.S. territory.

To prove that high-ranking Cuban officials are involved in drug trafficking, THE MIAMI HERALD quoted Interior Ministry officials, who in 1989 were implicated in a drug-trafficking operation. As is well known, on that occasion the Cuban authorities arrested and prosecuted a group of ranking military officers who had of their own volition become involved in actions punishable by the nation's laws, namely, drug trafficking. This proves that regardless of a person's rank, the justice of Cuban laws is felt by all who perpetrate such crimes.

A report issued recently by the U.S. State Department acknowledged Cuba's cooperation in efforts to control drug trafficking. Instead of wasting their time fabricating false accusations against Cuban officials, the prosecutors in Miami should investigate why the largest demand for drugs in the world comes from the United States.

Villa Clara Forms Administrative Council

FL1504233693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The Administrative Council of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government in Villa Clara was formed today. It is composed of 18 members and is headed by Miguel Cruz Perez and Armando Diaz Olivera as president and vice president respectively.

Now, all the central provinces have these new bodies installed, which moves them toward the perfection of the governing labor. Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the Cuban parliament, Tomas Cardenas Garcia, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Villa Clara, and Jaime Crombet, vice president of the National Assembly [of the People's Government] were present during the session.

[Begin Alarcon recording] I am sure that the council that you have approved today, and all the comrades of the provincial assembly of Villa Clara, all those, who in this province, have responsibilities in this front, will be united with all the other comrades in the rest of the

country in reiterating our willingness to continue being loyal, to continue dedicating all of our commitment and all of our effort for the definite and final victory of our country. Many thanks. [end recording]

Anniversary of 'First' Air Force Noted

FL1604021293 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Today Orestes Sevino del Rio is president of the historical commission of the first air force on which the revolutionaries relied. When he was just 25 years old, he was the pilot that fulfilled the first mission entrusted to this body of the army of the rebellion.

[Begin Sevino recording] This mission was a success in the sense in that it fulfilled its assignment and the orders of the commander in chief. That was the time when men grew in light of the difficulties; that is, the mission, for that time and the methods and resources that we had was somewhat complicated. [end recording]

All these men are founders of the Air Force of the Rebellion. At the end of 35 years, they remember that first moment in which pilots as well as other soldiers were responsible for maintenance, camouflage, communications, or watches, and were always accompanied by daring and ingenuity. There were times in which the missions were fulfilled under precarious, dangerous, and even improvised conditions. Many, as one of them said, saw a plane for the first time. Another said: Those machines seemed to ask for clemency in light of the difficult maneuvers they were subjected to. This is the glorious ancestor of what is today the Revolutionary Air Force.

Hospitals Treating Patients Affected With Optic Neuritis

FL1504225993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Two hospitals in the capital are dedicating their efforts toward diagnosing and treating patients affected with optic neuritis.

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Among the hospitals that are participating in the direct treatment of these cases is the military Higher Institute of Medicine Luis Diaz Soto.

[Unidentified speaker] This institution has a diagnostic system, in external examinations, that allows for making a diagnosis of optic neuritis in one day, with a series of work stations that allow us to run different tests. The doctor can reach a decision on whether the patient has optic neuritis. Without a doubt, this greatly improves services and therefore the patient can be diagnosed very quickly, in the same day, and makes it possible to begin treatment quickly, which will definitely help the patient recover as quickly as possible.

[Unidentified correspondent] How long have you been here?

[First unidentified patient] Approximately eight days.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you feel any better in the time since you have been here?

[First unidentified patient] Yes, yes since I came here, more or less after the first five days and after they began treatment, there has been improvement. Besides this, it has been tested by [word indistinct] tests.

[Second unidentified patient] I reached a condition where I did not see very well. My sight was clouded. I saw everything very clouded. But now I can tell you I am feeling better.

[Unidentified correspondent] It has been six days and you already feel better?

[Second unidentified patient] Much better.

[Unidentified correspondent] How have they treated you?

[Second unidentified patient] Good. I do not have any complaints and besides the personnel are very concerned. They treat us as if we were family.

[Unidentified correspondent] This center has all the human and material resources for a precise diagnosis and an effective treatment. [end recording]

Sugar Industry Minister Remarks on Harvest

FL1504225193 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Each stage of the sugar harvest has its specific problems. Now, in the middle of April, it is worth asking what the sugarcane situation is like nationwide and what problems are currently the priority? We asked Sugar Industry Minister Juan Herrera Machado these questions, taking advantage of a working visit to Cienfuegos Province.

[Begin Herrera recording] [words indistinct] I have already been in Cienfuegos for two days, in a leadership council, which has gone to all the country's provinces and fortunately we have been analyzing the aspects that you asked about. Without a doubt, we are in a difficult period of the sugar harvest, difficult not just because of the material problems we had at the beginning of the harvest but also because of some material problems that have been solved as the harvest has progressed.

Very adverse weather conditions occurred in March and April has continued to have adverse weather conditions. Nevertheless, the workers are making an effort province-wide and the main issue that all the provincial enterprises will base their work on during April and May is: first, to cut all the cane, making an effort to cut all the cane that can be milled in all the provinces, centers, and farms; second, to make an effort in the industry to obtain and maintain the industry's efficiency, not letting it fall, which is always more complex when milling is low. Being efficient when milling is high and stable is practically

easy, but to be efficient when the milling is low is not. But we think that the workers can make an effort to do this, to obtain a favorable period in this matter.

Without a doubt, May's effort will be the greatest that must be made with the sugar harvest because we know that the weather conditions are not going to be favorable and we must prepare ourselves to work, as it happens, in difficult conditions at the end of the harvest and this requires an effort of the men that work in the harvest, not just the manual and mechanical cane cutters but all the workers [word indistinct] their groups.

They must not think that the sugar harvest is just this harvest. It is this harvest, the next one, and the one after that. Logically, one must work in all the sugarcane activities and it unites all of us: harvesting, planting, preparing the land, cultivating, replanting; that is, all the activities. Therefore, the effort, the intelligence, the organization, and the dedication that is applied in each place to this harvest and the next one will definitely depend on the successes and the final results that we can achieve. [end recording]

Education Minister on Maintaining Achievements

FL1605140093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Education Minister Luis Ignacio Gomez has said: Maintaining Cuba's educational achievements is a fundamental objective of the Education Ministry.

Gomez, who is also a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, stressed the need to train preschool and primary school teachers, mainly in Havana and Havana City Provinces. The operation to collect data [la captacion] that has been going on since 1 April is showing these provinces to be at approximately 50 percent [as heard].

At the news conference itself, it was announced that the courses of study for a degree in technical [laboral] education, physics, and Marxism and history are, in the capital and in Havana Province, below the plan [as heard] for the next school year.

It was reported that the Education Ministry has earmarked 13,000 university vacancies for students finishing the 12th grade this year. Approximately 50 percent of these vacancies are for teaching careers. The application deadline will be extended to 30 April.

Grenada

Prime Minister Defends Policy of Privatization

FL1504214993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1641 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by Richard Simon]

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, April 15, CANA—The Grenada Government has defended its bid to privatise a number of statutory bodies, in the face of opposition from trade unionists. Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite complained some state businesses were inefficient and loss-making.

He also said clinging "to a dead ideology" of heavy state involvement in the economy could deny Grenadians "the opportunity to develop efficient and effective privately-owned enterprises."

A National Committee Against Privatisation (NCAP), which involves trade unionists, has attacked the government's privatisation policy, saying it meant heavy job losses and under-selling of state assets. But according to Brathwaite, a study of 11 statutory bodies by a group of international consultants (Price-Waterhouse) showed that only the Grenada Sugar Factory, Grenada Bank of Commerce [GBC], and the Grenada Electricity Company (Grenlec) are operating at a profit.

"The overall performance of state-owned enterprises has been poor, the average rate of return for this sector has been negative, indicating sub-standard efficiency," he quoted the report as saying. He listed poor management among the factors contributing to the losses.

The Price-Waterhouse report recommended the direct sale of Grenlec, the Grenada Sugar Factory, the Gravel-Concrete and Emulsion Production Corporation (GRACP), GBC, and Grenada Development Bank to a single or "concentrated group" of buyers. The report also called for the liquidation of the defunct Central Garage Limited, and the Public Transport Service, both loss-making enterprises, and the fragmentation of the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB).

The Brathwaite administration is also being advised to seek management contracts for the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA), the Grenada Airports Authority, and the Grenada Ports Authority.

"No decision has as yet been taken on the recommendations," Brathwaite said in a recent nationwide address, noting that the decision to privatise Grenlec was taken one year ago as part of a package presented to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Brathwaite said Grenada may be moving against international market trends by trying to keep state-owned corporations.

He said the increase in state ownership which took place under the People's Revolutionary Government (1979-83) left Grenada with companies that were inefficient, over-staffed, a drain on the treasury, and victims of stiff administrative controls and poor management.

"In the face of all the evidence, we cannot continue to cling to a dead ideology. To do so will be to deny ourselves the opportunity to develop efficient and effective privately-owned enterprises," he argued.

Brathwaite took a swipe at the leader of the opposition Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy, and leftist trade unionist Chester Humphrey, who are campaigning against the

privatisation drive. He said the people "must decide who is trying to play games with the future of this country."

This is the first time that Humphrey and Gairy will be on the same platform since Humphrey's involvement in shipping guns to Grenada for the overthrow of the Gairy government. Humphrey refused to sit on the platform at last year's May Day celebrations, after Sir Eric had arrived—to a standing ovation from the packed Queen's Park.

Haiti

Reaction to Prime Minister Bazin Address Noted

ACP, Socialist Bloc Applaud Address

FL1504171993 Port-au-Prince Tele-Haiti in Creole 1030 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Passages within slantlines recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Right after the speech, reactions began coming in. Following Bazin's speech, several reactions were recorded following Bazin's speech in the Haitian parliament where two blocs support the consensus government: the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion, ACP, bloc and the socialist bloc. Both of them applauded Bazin's speech. They say his is a plan that can get Haiti out of the drama, the challenges it is experiencing. We can have you listen to the testimonies, the opinions of the president of the office of the ACP branch at the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Antoine Joseph, a member of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, presided over by Marc Bazin.

[Joseph] /[words indistinct] this plan because first we find in this plan—let us say—all the guidelines, all the guidelines of the Washington Agreement. Then, I think this agreement is [word indistinct] because I personally believe that it is a plan acceptable to all sectors involved in the Haitian crisis. Finally, I think it is an agreement that can, at the same time, offer the possibility of an honorable way out of the crisis for everybody. [passage omitted]/

This stand is not the same as that of Sen. Turneb Delpe, member of the Anticorruption Constitutionalist Bloc in the Senate of the Republic and National Front for Change and Democracy spokesman. According to Sen. Delpe, Bazin's speech does not mean anything because Bazin, as a citizen, is not an important interlocutor in the political crisis. For more information, we invite you to listen to Sen. Delpe at the microphone of Varrio Serran.

[Delpe] /Personally, I will tell you that I do not pay much attention to such a speech. First... [pauses] The first question I ask myself is: as what did Bazin give this speech? Was it as a citizen? Because we in the Senate know he is a prime minister who has already been dismissed. Second, all we heard were things that have already been said, repetitions. If you consult the Washington Agreement, you will see that some of those [words indistinct] that were already set up. [words indistinct] are delay tactics more than anything. Third, one feels that the people are being maneuvered to swallow the rigged 18 January 1993 elections. Well, that is all we can say about our opinions regarding the message, the demagogy that took place last evening. [passage omitted]

Political Sector Reaction Said 'Timid'

FL1504180693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Reactions from the political sector to the prime minister's 13 April speech are rather timid. Twenty-four hours later, the big political names refrained from making any comments, giving as a pretext that they had not yet deeply analysed the speech. Of special interest is the lack of reaction from the National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, the political formation close to the ousted president. On the other hand, some parties to the right of the government, such as the Mobilization for National Development, MDN, reject Marc Bazin's proposed solution.

Mr. Gerard Bissainthe, mission head to the State University of Haiti, believes that the prime minister speaks only on his own behalf, not on behalf of his ministerial cabinet. Gerard Bissainthe nevertheless sees the speech as limited in impact. The mission head, who rejects the solution under article 148 of the Constitution, advocates a national solution to the political crisis.

To Eddy Volel of the Christian Democratic Assembly, RDC, the prime minister spoke for the sake of speaking. His speech will not help speed up things.

According to MOP, Movement for the Organization of the Country, Prime Minister Bazin is trying to bloc all constructive solutions to the political crisis. MOP calls the proposals by the head of government demogogic.

Finally, Jean-Claude Roy, member of the Union of the Constitutionalists, relaunches the idea of a national convention. It would be more dignified, according to Mr. Roy, to submit oneself to the will of the nation rather than to capitulate to foreign dictates. According to Jean-Claude Roy, the durable solution to the crisis can come only through a consensus of the Haitian parties and must not be the work of only the international parties.

Parliamentarians Praise Bazin Proposal

FL1504210793 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The plan proposed by Prime Minister Marc Bazin to solve the political crisis has been well received by parliamentarians. Deputies of different leanings applaud Bazin's plan for a solution to the crisis. They are

ready to recognize the legitimacy of President Aristide to contribute to the solution to the crisis. Ansy Rose Resignac filed this report.

[Begin Resignac recording] The deputies do not think poorly of Marc Bazin's address on 13 April. From the left to the right, going through the center, the deputies clearly support his plan for a solution to the crisis, a proposal that is as old as the crisis, according to the president of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion in the lower chamber. Since the day following the coup, two other deputies and I have tried to suggest a similar proposal, says Pierre Simon Georges, who thinks that the tripartite agreement government has always respected the mission given to it by choosing the negotiations. Satisfied that Prime Minister Marc Bazin is leaving the door wide open today for the conclusion of those negotiations, the deputy of the Alliance goes as far as calling on the understanding of his colleagues so that the legitimacy of President Aristide is recognized. [passage omitted]

This is the first speech by Marc Bazin that has received the approval of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD]. While saying so, Deputy Isaac Garcon still thinks that the head of the consensus government has reacted within the framework of political constraint and is in search of popular support, which does not prevent the secretary of the BPFNCD [Parliamentarian Bloc of the National Front for Change and Democracy] from confessing that a major step is about to be made. [passage omitted]

If the 13 April address is perceived by Deputy Garcon as a form of capitulation by Marc Bazin, for Deputy Edmonde Supplice Beausil, the government is only following its mission. The parliamentarian from the Nationalistic Revolutionary Progressive Party of Haiti did not just only applaud the prime minister's proposal. According to her, the socialists, in a way, expressed themselves through this speech. [passage omitted]

However, there is a note not too encouraging for Marc Bazin. Jean-Pierre Arinx, one of those elected on 18 January, reproaches the prime minister for having sinned against parliament before thinking of soliciting its word. He states that it is too late for that. He is willing, however, to provide his contribution, following the example by parliament, which is generally ready to give its approval for a new departure. [end recording]

Antigovernment Graffiti in La Vallee de Jacmel Noted

FL1504204393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Pierre Nazon Beauliere—recorded in Creole]

[Text] Members of the civilian mission visited La Vallee de Jacmel. As the four members toured, slogans against the government and the mission were seen on the city walls. Other slogans in favor of President Aristide were also seen.

[Beauliere] The OAS members based in Jacmel were touring La Vallee on 14 April. Several slogans against the OAS members were written on the walls of (Kadad) and at the entrance of Ridore which is the center of La Vallee. Those slogans were unkind toward Port- au-Prince authorities but in favor of the return of Father Jean- Bertrand Aristide. The OAS members, who were not happy with the graffiti, took pictures of them. When we asked them for their impressions of the bitter words against the mission, Bill (Bizino), assistant coordinator for Jacmel, answered that he could not comment because the members must meet first before any official statements. Several organizations in La Vallee are indifferent as to which sector is responsible for the graffiti on the walls in the La Vallee area.

The OAS delegation met with La Vallee Mayor (Ones Lamothe), Mr. [word indistinct) Jean-Mary, who is an adviser for AJRV, Association of Young Residents in La Vallee, and several other people to discuss the role of the OAS mission in Haiti.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Air Transport Agreement With Venezuela Renewed

FL1504165193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1554 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, April 15, CANA—The Governments of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Venezuela have renewed an agreement to allow charter, passenger, and cargo non-scheduled flights between both countries. The agreement was initialled Wednesday by foreign affairs minister, Herbert Young, and the Venezuelan ambassador to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Miriam Fiel.

"It is primarily to facilitate the development of international air transport, tourism, and trade by granting traffic rights for non-scheduled or charter flights to operate between them' [words indistinct]. Minor changes have been made to the original memorandum signed in March, 1990, to allow for the inclusion of St. Vincent's J.F. Mitchell Airport as another port of call for Venezuelan flights.

Young, underscoring the excellent relations which exist between St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Venezuela, noted that agreements such as this one would further cement existing ties. The Venezuelan ambassador, pointing to the one-way free trade agreement signed last year between Venezuela and countries of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), said she hoped local exporters would make use of opportunities for trade, and expressed hope renewal of the agreement would contribute to the promotion of tourism and other commercial activities.

The agreement is for a three-year period.

Trinidad and Tobago

Former Finance Minister Competes for NAR Leadership

FL1504184093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1744 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 15, CANA—Ex-Trinidad and Tobago finance minister, Selby Wilson, is in the race for leadership of the opposition National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR). When the party holds its annual convention later this month, Wilson will be opposing former works and infrastructure minister, Dr. Carson Charles, who has been leading the party for just over a year.

The NAR, then led by former Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, lost the 1991 general election to the People's National Movement (PNM). This followed in-fightings which led to expulsion of some members, including former ministers. The ex-ministers led by Basdeo Panday later formed the United National Congress (UNC), the main parliamentary opposition. The 53-year-old Wilson, who started his campaign Wednesday night, told CANA that he entered the race because he felt there was a need for a serious and credible party in the country.

"There seems to be a general feeling that under my leadership the party will have a reasonable opportunity of attracting the broad- based community," he remarked. "In my own view, when I see what is happening in the country, I feel we have to establish the credibility of the NAR as an organisation which has the potential of forming the next government, if only to maintain hope and stability in the country."

The accountant said reality was "dawning" on the population that the PNM led by prime minister patrick manning was following a different agenda to the one promised during the elections campaign.

"So I could not help responding to the call for my service in the context of national interest," said Wilson, who is being publicly supported by former planning minister, Winston Dookeran. Dookeran, a popular choice for leader, has declined to enter the race. Robinson, who was also nominated to the post of chairman by several constituencies, has also declined.

*** Liberal Program Seen Aggravating Unemployment**

93CA0087A Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 16 Feb 93 p 38

[Commentary by Jose Angel Conchello, president of the National Action Party in the Federal District: "Unemployment That's Here To Stay"]

[Text] Among the many myths that shape people's thinking and promote liberal capitalism, which has been spreading unchecked since the fall of the USSR, is the idea that the growing unemployment caused by the move toward free competition—structural unemployment—may easily be solved when this conversion process has been completed. According to the myth, it is all a matter of training plumbers and carpenters, bookkeepers and cashiers in modern fields with no shortage of specialized names—computer science, mechatronics, computerized communications, robotics, and other high-tech areas.

Our technocrats believe that simplistic idea, as do our businesspeople and their ideologues, but then so do those of Clinton and Mitterrand, for they treat as comparable a past that really cannot be repeated now. They think people who lose their jobs because new machines have been invented are going to find new jobs in other activities that will enrich the country and humanity, such as happened with farm work when tractors were invented, and in industry when the continuous spinning machine and the mechanical loom came into use.

Nonetheless, the magnitude of the changes now in fashion is so great that we have not seen, and do not see now, the structural readjustment which, say classic economics texts, should be under way. It is not being seen for one initial cause: the process has no end. It is something ongoing. If yesterday this process could adapt to take in the people who were laid off, today we do not see where they can go, and how all these "readjusted" people are going to be able to earn a living.

In the "Club of Rome" report, the authors cast doubt upon this absorption capacity at this time, pointing out that "historic analogies may be deceptive when circumstances are not parallel, as in the present transition when production and service sectors are both automating simultaneously." There can be no shift toward the service area, as many people imagine...for the service area is generating its own unemployment.

In an overview published in THE NEW YORK TIMES on U.S. economic problems while awaiting Clinton's economic panacea, analysts said that in past cycles of boom, recession, and recovery, the final phase, recovery, was marked by increased hiring, which will not happen in this recession.

"Typically," they said, "an economic recovery brings about a rapid surge in hiring, as companies produce more to respond to increased purchasing power. But since the recession's end in March 1991, the economy has grown less than most businesses have, and job growth has been limited. If jobs had grown at the rate of former recoveries, 3.9 million additional jobs would have been created."

In our neighbor to the north, to deal with that unemployment they plan to implement a public works program with a price tag of about $16 billion, which will create 400,000 temporary jobs in 1994; but at the same time, large companies have been announcing layoffs of a total of about 125,000 employees, and the government plans to lay off 50,000 bureaucrats and cut the military. In so doing, unemployment will shift from some sectors to others, in spite of everything being done with training, as Robert B. Reich advocated two years ago in his book, *The Work of Nations*.

In that book, the new U.S. secretary of labor dogmatically believes that the adjustment may take place: "Advanced economies, like the U.S. economy, will continue to generate large numbers of jobs in personal services, despite the automation of traditional jobs. For each bank teller who loses her job to an ATM machine, three new jobs open up for aerobics instructors."

He has faith that personal services will displace routine, repetitive jobs that they think will be left to poorer nations whose people work happily for less money than Americans make. However, using the same rationale, Jonathan Tasini, (AP Dow Jones), speaking of unemployment and its relation to the TLC [Free Trade Agreement], wrote: "If the new administration counts on having some future technology that will generate large numbers of high paying jobs, it may be disappointed. Only a part of such jobs would pay high salaries. The new industries will be highly mobile and will go wherever labor is cheaper."

With the structural madness of the Mexican economy in pursuit of the TLC, hundreds of thousands of workers have been laid off, and they have gone to the underground economy in Mexico or to illegal jobs in the United States. We are told that, in order to solve unemployment it is sufficient to create a farsighted program of training and retraining, to give jobs to everyone in high-tech industries. So, we will turn the cucumber grower into a programmer, the printer into a problem analyst, the mechanic into a laser ray operator, a maker of superconductors, a designer of robots or a symbolic analyst of virtual reality in the new world of telecomputers. I sincerely believe that not only is such an idea unachievable, but that it is a farce in which not even those who need to take responsibility for unemployment in Mexico really believe.

The level of unemployment is unprecedented all over the world, so let us not deceive ourselves; unemployment will not be solved as a result of monetary measures or commercial opportunities; nor will it be overcome by miraculous training programs. We need to face it as a real problem of economic Darwinism, and not a residue of other ills. And as the present Mexican president and

his administration do not want to do anything to remedy it, we can say sadly that unemployment is here to stay.

* Peasant Leader Slain After Reporting Marijuana

93CA0087B Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 23 Feb 93 p 37

[Text] The National Network of Civic Organizations for Human Rights yesterday reported the murder of peasant leader Filogonio Marcelino Bautista, who was killed on 19 November 1992, presumably by drug traffickers in the municipality of San Felipe Usila, Oaxaca.

As part of the National Campaign Against Impunity that the network has been conducting since December, the organization also reported the torture and illegal detention of Jose Luis and Enrique Guevara, who were accused—without a criminal complaint being filed—of kidnapping Maria Elena Arevalo de Barranco in Tulancingo, Hidalgo. They are reportedly now being held in prison in that city.

In a press conference Rocio Culebro, a member of the Mexican Committee for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, said that peasant leader Filogonio Marcelino Bautista and municipal police agent Raul Morales Mendoza were murdered on 19 November 1992.

These killings took place after Bautista filed a report on 8 January 1992 with the MPF [Federal Public Prosecutor's Office] in Tuxtepec, saying marijuana was being grown on ejido lands by 16 local peasants.

The local peasants accused were: Manuel Vicente Inocente, Miguel Vicente Vicente, Candido Avendano Lorenzo, Fidencio Martinez de Jesus, Emilio Gonzalez Francisco, and Marcelino Montoya, who were arrested a few hours after police agent Raul Morales Mendoza verified the existence of these marijuana plants.

According to a complaint filed in December with the CNDH [National Commission for Human Rights] by Bautista's wife, Lourdes Bartola Hernandez Gonzalez, the people arrested were released by the Public Prosecutor's Office, which said it could not keep them in prison.

Although the complaint does not specify how they were killed, it does say that Public Prosecutor's Office for the Common Jurisdiction agent Rafael Reyes Romero demanded that Lourdes Bartola Hernandez give him 3 million old pesos for starting an investigation.

On the case of Jose Luis and Enrique Guevara Taboada, Proceso Diaz, a member of the Sergio Mendez Arceo Human Rights Defense Committee of Tulancingo, reported that both men were arrested on 7 December 1992 without a warrant.

On that same day, according to the committee's complaint, they were tortured with electrical prods and forced to sign confessions.

Their case, No. 247/92, was later turned over to Third Criminal Court Judge Esteban Espinosa.

A complaint has been filed containing all the facts of the case with the State Human Rights Commission; it was also indicated that "no results have been seen to date, and immunity is still current in all areas."

El Salvador

New Onusal Chief Arrives, Comments on Peace Process

PA1504223293 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, the Colombian-appointed new chief of the UN Observers for El Salvador, Onusal, arrived on 14 April in our country to assume control of the organization in charge of verifying this nation's peace process.

Ramirez Ocampo will replace Iqbal Riza, the Pakistani appointed to another mission by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. I have come to fulfill a task that Onusal has been carrying out brilliantly within the peace process, Ramirez Ocampo said upon arrival at Comalapa Airport.

He added: The peace process' importance and the exemplary manner in which it has been carried out is sometimes forgotten in El Salvador. The new Onusal leader said the Salvadoran process has matured. Lent has passed and the Easter of peace will follow.

Ramirez Ocampo was foreign minister of Colombia between 1984 and 1986 and mayor of Santa Fe de Bogota, the Colombian capital. He has also assumed important UN posts.

Supreme Court President Criticizes Onusal Report

PA1604042093 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1230 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, criticized an Onusal [United Nations Oberver Group in El Salvador] human rights division report criticizing the administration of justice in the country. Gutierrez said the organization should be more careful in its assertions. The official said the person in charge of Onusal's human rights division could not possibly prove there is another Judicial Branch in Latin America that in peacetime has made half the efforts made by the Salvadoran Judicial Branch in the physical, moral, and training fields.

[Begin Gutierrez recording] I mean it. It is very easy to criticize when there are no points of comparison. If we study the statistics of countries that are much more advanced than ours, we would see that we are far from our goals, but we are also farther ahead of some countries where their people come here and try to teach us lessons in criminal and constitutional law, and how to draft our codes. [end recording]

Gutierrez said the Onusal human rights division has received all possible cooperation, but when these people take wrong stands, the Supreme Court does not have to keep assisting them.

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] We have maintained very good relations with them. We even signed a cooperation agreement with them. Unfortunately, the remarks published by newspapers are very general and only reiterate the stand of Dr. Pedro Niquen in his report to the United Nations and, to a considerable extent, the Truth Commission. We would regret it very much if Onusal, which has also played a very active role, would only repeat what the other agencies, which have been acting more according to political than juridical criteria, have been saying. Nevertheless, we do not want to make such assertions. So far, our relations with Onusal have been of mutual respect.

[Unidentified reporter] Whose attention does Dr. Diego Sayan attract?

[Gutierrez] Dr. Sayan cannot possibly attract my attention or that of the Judicial Branch. He can point out views to be studied, and views with which I may or may not agree. If I disagree, I would not call it Dr. Sayan's attention because he does not depend on me nor I on him. [end recording]

Gutierrez also criticized some lawyers' organizations that attacked the Supreme Court of Justice.

[Begin Gutierrez recording] Unfortunately, some lawyers should be able to explain to the Salvadoran people where this green-colored money came from; money which they spend everyday to pay for publications offensive to the administration of justice in El Salvador and the national interests. I am referring to SESTAS and LIEJE [not further expanded]. I have been accused of interfering with the justice administration and giving orders to judges, but I have not and when I have been forced to intervene, it has been on behalf of the national interest and with due respect for the judges. It would be very interesting, should my functions allow me, to take the lie detector test. I would simply tell them to ask me whatever they wanted. For my part, I would ask them who pays them, and who is giving them money to spread poison in the Salvadoran society? [end recording]

FMLN Reports UN Human Rights Meeting in Geneva

PA1504213693 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Text] On 14 April, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, political party reported that the human rights situation in El Salvador had prompted the international community's concern at the UN human rights meeting in Geneva.

FMLN leader Oton Sigifrido Reyes asserted that the Salvadoran Government is being isolated by the international community because it is not keeping the peace agreements that were signed in Mexico. Reyes, who attended the meeting in Geneva on 10 March, reported the points discussed at the event and added that the Salvadoran Government, which also attended the

meeting, has attempted to sway public opinion by falsely reporting the meeting's results.

[Begin Reyes recording] The Salvadoran Government made a strong international effort and even demanded that the governments with which it has diplomatic relations suspend the mandate given to (?Pedro Mouton), the independent human rights expert for El Salvador. The government representative also wanted to get El Salvador listed as a country where human rights are respected and where the government observes its human rights responsibilities.

We want to report that the Salvadoran Government's efforts ended in a complete diplomatic fiasco [words indistinct] although it moved heaven and earth to get [words indistinct]. The government also attempted to cheat and manipulate public opinion by giving the impression that El Salvador is a country [words indistinct] respect human rights.

We have seen government human rights officials give false statements in this regard and we take this opportunity to rebut those statements. Our stance can be confirmed with the human rights commission report issued by the UN Observers for El Salvador on 14 April. The report indicates that serious human rights violations continue in our country. It emphasizes executions, death threats, political murders disguised as criminal actions, and the inefficient judicial system, which requires a thorough modification.

We believe such negative reports have prompted the international community to demand that the Salvadoran Government effectively comply with its human rights commitments. [end recording]

The FMLN's Reyes also reported that the UN Human Rights Commission approved a resolution on the human rights situation in El Salvador at the meeting in Geneva. The resolution included a request for the Salvadoran Government to fully comply with the pending points in the peace agreements. The resolution proposal was presented by the Rio Group, represented by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and five additional countries.

Assembly President on Compliance, U.S. Aid Conditions

PA1504175693 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Report by Dagoberto Coreas]

[Text] If the U.S. Congress suspends economic aid to the country, it will be because of actions by left wingers and members of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], Legislative Assembly President Roberto Angulo stated on 14 April.

Angulo made the statement after the U.S. Congress announced that if the Cristiani administration does not comply with the recommendations made in the Truth Commission report, it will immediately suspend aid.

[Begin Angulo recording] We, Salvadorans, have several times suffered the consequences of these maneuvers by the left and PDC members. They are opposed to progress in El Salvador and to our receiving aid because they think this benefits the Nationalist Republican Alliance. This is not fair to the Salvadoran people.

All Salvadorans benefit from the aid received by the country. These gentlemen have for some time resorted to these strategies, which do not benefit the Salvadoran people. The recommendations that can be met will be met. [end recording]

The recommendations in the Truth Commission report will be fulfilled, but on the basis of the Constitution of the Republic, Angulo asserted.

Given the speculation that the U.S. Government will support the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in the 1994 elections, the Legislative Assembly president ruled out that possibility.

[Begin Angulo recording] First, I do not think this is true. The U.S. Government said it will support and strengthen democracy. To support a specific party does not strengthen democracy. That is tipping the balance. [end recording]

Regarding a draft bill presented by the FMLN to the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace on compliance with the recommendations in the Truth Commission report, Angulo said that the legislature will analyze this bill to determine if it benefits the Salvadoran people.

[Begin Angulo recording] If the FMLN makes a proposal that favors the population and all Salvadorans, as well as peace, reconciliation, and democracy, we will analyze it in a responsible manner, as we have done in the past. [end recording]

Finally, the Legislative Assembly president concluded that the Judiciary Branch reforms are on the right track, which is in line with the recommendations made in the Truth Commission report and the peace agreements.

Commentary on U.S. Opposition to Amnesty Law

PA1504212993 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Commentary by Raul Belt Ran]

[Text] Bill Clinton, the honorable President of the United States, has said through the Congress: Gentlemen, the Salvadoran amnesty law is not to my liking. Everyone is jumpy; some are happy, others concerned, but everyone is jumpy. We will never get rid of the habit.... [pauses] There are some political analysts—nowadays anybody is an analyst—who say the United States always called the shots here. How insightful! The

United States continues to call the shots, and yet these people are just finding this out. They also say the United States supports this person or that person. How insightful!

This is nothing new. The United States always paid the piper. That country always had a say in how things were done. Today, with the amnesty law, which is being questioned very much, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front has abandoned many of its young men in jail, because it seems the amnesty law will not apply to them. Not long ago, we were analyzing the case of the former National Guardsmen who were linked to the murder of the U.S. nuns. They pointed the finger at four colonels and two generals who covered up the operation in which they participated.

In sum, all these things are written down, and we are just repeating them. If a law benefits a group, it should benefit everybody, or else the law seems to be meant for only some. With the change in the U.S. Government, things cannot bode well for Salvadorans in terms of economic aid. We are going to have to learn to eat the trees as food, because we may starve to death. To be sure, there must be a little dignity and respect in what the Legislative Assembly and the Foreign Ministry do or say. How about you, don't you think we are right?

FMLN Not To Nominate Presidential Candidate for Elections

PA1504191393 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 13 Apr 93 p 24

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) will not nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the Republic but it will endorse the person who obtains the support of opposition political forces, former guerrilla commander Jorge Melendez stated on 12 April.

"The FMLN would be more interested in supporting a candidate of national consensus, a presidential ticket capable of offering guarantees to different political forces in the coalition and assurances to the different sectors of the country," Melendez added.

The former commander hinted at the possibility that among the political figures that the FMLN may support as consensus candidates to the Presidency are Victor Valle of the Revolutionary National Movement; Ruben Zamora of the Democratic Convergence; and Fidel Chavez Mena and Abraham Rodriguez, proposed by the Christian Democratic Party.

According to Melendez, the FMLN is working hard and focusing on winning mayoral offices and Legislative Assembly seats. To this end, the most qualified persons, namely those capable of developing projects to benefit the entire community, are being sought.

The FMLN became a political party by virtue of the peace agreement with the government that was signed on 16 January 1992 in Chapultepec, Mexico. As a political party, to date the FMLN has created boards of directors in most municipalities in hopes of establishing better ties with the population to achieve its objectives in the March 1994 elections.

FMLN spokesmen said recently that the party will announce the names of its legislative and mayoral candidates throughout the country in a general assembly that will be held in mid-June. Other parties are still concerned over the selection of ideal candidates for the 1994 presidential election.

Guatemala

Defense Minister Claims URNG Lacks Leadership

PA1504230893 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0345 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Speaking on the topic of domestic infighting, General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa, the defense minister, said on 13 April that unity among the guerrilla ranks is uncertain and the impression they give is that no one really knows who is in command in the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG].

[Begin recording] [Garcia] No one knows who is in command of the URNG. Anyone says he or she is unwilling to sign and then they say it is the government that is delaying negotiations—this is totally false. Like the people, we want peace, but we want our dignity and sovereignty respected. We ask that they not insult the people's yearnings.

[Unidentified reporter] Were there any clashes during Holy Week?

[Garcia] Yes, we had a series of clashes because guerrilla groups attacked civilians. In Paximil they wounded a minor. There were clashes in the northern part of Alta Verapaz Department; several guerrillas were killed, one was left abandoned and he was turned over to the local justice official with his rifle and ammunition. I have just been told of a clash that began on 12 April in the northern part of (Huatelpeloc), Los Angeles, and (Tepecuel). I understand regrettably an officer was killed; I do not have his name yet. Operations continue.

I was surprised that the CPR [Communities of Resistant People] should ask that the area be swept for mines. They should ask and demand this from the terrorist guerrillas, who are the ones who mined the area and have used all types of violence in the Ixcan area. Now the CPR continues to insist, it continues to be manipulated, and it is a URNG political instrument. If the CPR wants peace, they should look for something better.... [pauses] they should not even invite us to come to incite the others; we know them so well. What I say is that they must leave the area because it is mined, there are clashes, the guerrillas have their camps, and that the CPR is politically manipulated. (?They sabotage development) [words indistinct] Santo Tomas, San Lucas, and so on. That area seeks to develop in an atmosphere that offers greater opportunity

for security and success in a normal and tranquil life. We do not have to give in to the guerrillas. The CPR should realize they are being manipulated by the guerrillas. They should have the guts and citizens' responsibility and demand from the guerrillas an end to terror and insecurity in the area. [end recording]

UN Representatives To Attend Government, Guerrilla Talks

PA1604010693 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] The presence of a group of UN delegates represents one of the new developments that marks the meeting between Guatemalan Government and guerrilla representatives, which began on 15 April in Mexico City. Representatives of the two sides previously met with National Reconciliation Commission members to establish the agenda for this new phase of the dialogue.

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit is represented by its highest leaders, members of its diplomatic commission, and an adviser. The government delegation is led by Manuel Conde Orellana, president of the Government Commission for Peace; and it is also comprised of four Army generals, one colonel, and six civilians.

A CERIGUA News Agency report from Mexico City claims that the government delegation leader said the Guatemalan Government will accept the UN observers' presence to guarantee compliance with the peace accords. The UN observers will have a military rank and they will comprise the special forces known as the Blue Helmets, which have carried out various missions in different zones of the world, including the Middle East, Somalia, and former Yugoslavia.

Honduras

Correction to Ad Hoc Commission Presents Report to President Callejas

PA1504033093

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ad Hoc Commission Presents Report to President Callejas" published in the 14 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 14:

Page 15, column two, first complete paragraph, first to second sentence, make read: ...associated to the National Executive Branch Employees and Officials Retirement and Pension Institute. Personnel who have... (correcting name of institute)

Nicaragua

Chamorro Invites UNO Party Leaders To Attend Meeting

PA1604002893 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Letter by President Violeta Chamorro addressed to National Opposition Union, UNO, party leaders in Managua on 14 April—read by Danilo Lacayo, director of information and press of the Presidency]

[Text] Managua, Nicaragua, 14 April 1993

Roger Mendieta Alfaro, National Conservative Party; Ricardo Vega Garcia, Neoliberal Party; Dr. Miriam Arguello Morales, Popular Conservative Alliance; Eli Altamirano Perez, Communist Party of Nicaragua; Roberto Urroz, Nicaraguan Democratic Movement; Cairo Manuel Lopez, Christian Democratic Union; Alfredo Cesar Aguirre, Social Democratic Party; Eliceo Nunez, Liberal Constitutionalist Party; Dr. Duilio Baltodano, National Action Party; Dr. Wilfredo Navarro, Independent Liberal Party:

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

From the day I took office as president of the Republic, the members of my government and I have consistently practiced dialogue with all the political, social, and economic sectors of Nicaragua. We have chosen dialogue as the most suitable way to settle differences and as the government's trademark style in dealing with national problems.

Consequently, in response to the request stated in your letter dated 1 April 1993 and to talk with you as representatives of the National Opposition Union parties, I am hereby inviting you to a meeting in my office on 3 May 1993 at 1000.

I must take advantage of this occasion to extend greetings to you and to express my highest regards.

[Signed] Violeta Chamorro, president of Nicaragua.

RN Council Endorses Initiative for National Dialogue

PA1504225693 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] National Council has issued a communique stating the RN endorses the initiative for a national dialogue and demands participation because the group is a factor in the political, economic, and social balance of the country.

The communique was issued at 1200 on 14 April in the Conapro [National Confederation of Professional Associations] facilities, where a meeting was held by the RN commanders board which seeks all the members' unity.

The RN National Council also demanded an end to the Sandinist People's Army military operations throughout

the national territory because this only helps to create unrest in the countryside. The group also asks the government to respect human rights and punish the people who have murdered RN members.

The document also states the unity of all groups is necessary so they are not manipulated by the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the joint government.

Reaction to Study on 'Lowest' Level of Credibility of Political System

PA1504202293 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Apr 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Elisa Maturana C.]

[Text] Nicaraguan analysts, businessmen, and politicians of various viewpoints have described the investigation published on 14 April in BARRICADA under the headline "The Problem of Governance in Nicaragua" as "a resounding alarm" that should make us reflect profoundly on the political class.

According to the study sponsored by the UN Development Program and developed by the Nicaraguan Study Institute (IEN), the credibility of the national political system has dropped to the lowest level in the past year, while the clamor for a national agreement has increased to almost 100 percent.

"These results do not surprise me because they are a phenomenon perceived on the streets. But I believe that to see them reflected in such high figures is severe, even worrisome," said Dr. Alejandro Serrano Caldera, rector of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua [UNAN] and a prestigious political analyst.

The study states that 72.3 percent of the participants in the poll do not feel represented by the government; 66.3 percent do not believe the political parties can resolve the people's problems, and 97.6 percent are demanding a national agreement.

According to Serrano, "under those figures" is hidden a "dramatic rupture" between the political class and civilian society, resulting from the "divorce" of both sides' interests.

"The people are telling them clearly: "The language you (politicians) speak is not ours because they are selling the people a speech, an agenda, and a debate foreign to their interests," Serrano said. [quotation marks as published]

For Emilio Alvarez Montalvan, another distinguished political analyst, the figures cited in the study reveal that Nicaragua is undergoing a crisis of authority and leadership that may lead to the failure of efforts at dialogue.

"Nicaragua's situation is very close to what is known in sociology as anomie. It means that the authorities have lost prestige and efficiency while, on the other hand, they have an undisciplined civilian society in which each person protects whatever he can of his own interests," Alvarez Montalvan said.

According to Montalvan, this crisis stems from three factors: the UNO division—"the acronym soup"—a lack of definition on the part of Sandinism, and the political inexperience of the government that wants to function as a technocracy. Changing it requires a revamping of the political scenario, Montalvan said.

Serrano, however, feels such factors are the effect and not the cause of the crisis, which in his opinion is caused by the lack of a "strategic" national agenda that serves to unite the forces.

He added that "if the political protagonists choose to subordinate their partisan interests to a national agenda, a great strategic agreement," as the majority of the people want, "they can amend their actions on society and regain their credibility." The word "governance" is taken from the English language. It refers to the extent to which a society can or cannot be governed, according the condition of the nature of its democratic institutions, IEN expert Rodolfo Delgado explained.

Sandinist Deputy Reynaldo Antonio Tefel felt the fact the parties and institutions have lost their credibility "reflects a widespread disillusionment" by a society that pinned "all its hopes" on finding a solution to its problems, mainly its economic problems —but that solution does not come.

In his opinion, the most outstanding aspect of the study is the desire for a national dialogue. He noted the urgency of "taking advantage" of the signals in favor of that effort, namely the support the country received in Paris, the "new U.S. attitude," and the widespread request for a dialogue among the people.

He felt any dialogue must give priority to economic topics so the parties have the possibility of "regaining the credibility" they have lost.

Luis Humberto Guzman, deputy of the Popular Social Christian Party and UNO bloc coordinator, felt the survey buttresses the view the coalition has been defending on the political origin of the crisis. It calls for political solutions.

The UNO will meet on 14 April in Las Nubes to discuss its stance and prepare an agenda for a future dialogue. Guzman felt that the FSLN is hurt the most by the loss in credibility because it is the largest political force in the country. Serrano, in turn, dismissed that view, considering that "not any one party but the whole system has been hurt," something he deemed "is much more serious" for the country.

The UNAN president said the concern must be viewed in a "positive" light, as it entails a profound review by the "Montagues and Capulets," because "the country cannot exist if so many people do not believe in the system."

From the economic standpoint, the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen [UNAG] and the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [Cosep], two groups that received favorable figures in the survey when they were suggested as possible participants in the talks, regard the results of the investigation as signals of the urgent need to find an economic solution that will make it possible to improve the economic situation.

Cosep President Ramiro Gurdian doubted the private sector had lost credibility and insisted that the ones "who do not fare well are politicians and the government." UNAG Executive Committee member Juan Ramon Aragon noted his group's efforts in the reconciliation process, primarily with the peasant forces of the former Nicaraguan Resistence, and agreed with Tefel on taking advantage of the "good signals" to promote a dialogue.

"The crisis is so great and strong that a nationwide consensus has been established, and the people are ready to contribute to overcome it and move ahead. We have resources, international assistance, people who want to work, and we can do it," Aragon said.

Economic Officials Hold News Conference 14 Apr

PA1504124893 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1641 GMT 14 Apr 93

[News conference by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo; Deputy Foreign Cooperation Minister Carlos Mario Blandon; Economy Minister Pablo Pereira, Finance Minister Emilio Pereira; Social Action Minister William Baez; and Central Bank President Jose Taboada with unidentified moderator and local reporters at the Presidential Press Directorate in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Lacayo] Good morning, friends of the local and foreign media. When I left for Paris on 31 March, exactly two weeks ago, I said that the Nicaraguan Government delegation was going to the Paris meeting to brief the international community on the progress of our pacification, democratization, and economic adjustment process and on the challenges that our country is facing for 1993 and 1994. In addition, I said we were going to ask the international community to continue to extend support to allow our people to achieve the objectives of our economic reactivation plan. [passage omitted]

The response from all the countries and organizations that met in Paris on 2 April was very favorable for Nicaragua and for all our people. All of the 17 countries and 11 international organizations in attendance unanimously supported the Nicaraguan process, and reiterated their support for Violeta Chamorro's administration, which has completed three years of working for peace, reconciliation, democratization, demilitarization, and our country's economic and social development. In the framework of that same meeting, it was announced that President Clinton's administration had decided to disburse the aid that had been withheld since May 1992. This closed, or actually resolved, a lengthy 10-month period of strain in U.S.-Nicaraguan relations. [passage omitted]

We must all realize that serious damage was caused by the withholding of the aid for so many months, and the fact that it has finally been granted will not necessarily offset that damage. Nevertheless, we believe the situation is somewhat less pressing than before. This makes it possible for the finance minister to announce certain fiscal measures, for the president of the Central Bank to announce certain financial and credit measures, and for the social action minister to announce measures that will have a social impact. Subsequently, I will comment on other aspects of the meeting, and we will answer your questions. [passage omitted]

[Emilio Pereira] I cannot emphasize enough that since this opportunity has again opened up for us, every Nicaraguan must take advantage of it and truly work to resolve the country's most profound fiscal and economic problems.

Despite our success in Paris, I must point out that the damage done to the economy in terms of the credits that were withheld, the public investment that never took place, and even the private investments that were not made because of our low volume of credit, was truly severe. Thus, we are hereby inviting the general public to take advantage of this opportunity. Here are some of the measures that will be adopted within this framework:

We will exempt machinery and equipment used for productive activities such as agricultural, industrial, agroindustrial, and construction activities from the 15 percent general sales tax.

Second, the electricity supplied for agricultural irrigation will be exempted from the 15 percent general sales tax. This will benefit cattlebreeders and producers.

Third—this is for consumers—all fruits and vegetables will be exempt from the 15 percent general sales tax.

Fourth, we will continue to enforce the current laws for the promotion of tourism, which will become a nontraditional export.

Fifth, we will eliminate import taxes on raw materials and supplies for the country's leading exports.

Sixth, we will eliminate existing [word indistinct] tariffs that directly tax exports.

Eighth [as heard], we will reduce the general sales tax in low-income neighborhoods.

Ninth, we will exempt from real estate taxes the demobilized members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, soldiers, and beneficiaries of the Agrarian Reform through titles issued by the National Institute for Agrarian Reform or any other state institution. What we will be eliminating here are the taxes paid when these properties are transferred for the first time by the state.

Another measure is the aniticipated one-third reduction of income taxes and deductions on goods and services purchases, which will benefit industry and commerce. These taxes will go from the current 3 percent to 2 percent.

Finally, we will broaden the list of luxury products and add a 25 percent tax to vodka and certain canned items such as beer, soda, and pears, which were not on the list.

Finally, tax exemption certificates are starting to be issued to exporters. The first 14 exporters who have filed their application at the Finance Ministry can pick up their certificates. This is the list of measures dealing with fiscal and tax matters.

[Announcer] This is Radio Nicaragua broadcasting live from the information and press directorate. Dr. Evenor Taboada, minister president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua, will now make some important announcements dealing with the country's lending plan.

[Taboada] Good morning, journalists and listeners. Within the external cooperation for Nicaragua that resulted from the Paris meeting, we are glad to report and confirm the financial measures taken in connection with the situation that we have described. First of all, more than 2.1 billion cordobas are available for short-term loans, which will basically be used for production, but more specifically, commerce. In addition, there are over 800 million cordobas available for long-term loans this year. Thus, there will be approximately 3 billion cordobas available for loans in 1993.

It is important to point out that there has been a redistribution of resources from the Central Bank to support production in particular and make more funds available for small- and medium-scale enterprises, as well as for small-scale cattle raising activities. We will refer to this program briefly. The social action minister will expand on it later during the conference. The money for long-term loans is being made available to the financial system through the Nicaraguan Investment Fund [FNI] at a 8.5 percent interest rate. The special resources that the FNI continues to receive from external sources are being made available to the public at interest rates of between 12 and 14 percent annually. Furthermore, the Central Bank will issue long-term investment bonds for approximately 240 million cordobas, to be placed in private commercial banks, making it possible for such banks to finance long-term projects. This will represent a very important change in private banking because normally such banks do not participate in long-term, large-scale projects. The Central Bank will acquire these bonds under a special program to make it possible for private banks, in turn, to finance long-term operations.

We must also emphasize the adoption of complementary measures to promote production. For example, we have made bank guarantee securities more flexible and expeditious. This will have very positive effects on the cost of financing and use of credit in the production and agricultural areas.

We are focusing our efforts on financing small- and medium-sized producers. We will implement two very important measures. We will increase resources at the disposal of the Popular Bank and earmark special resources to support those areas of the country, which will be identified by the Social Action Ministry [MAS], where small businessmen need additional resources.

We will also earmark resources to the cattle breeding industry to ensure cattlemen have sufficient resources to purchase a maximum of 30.... [pauses] 25 small cows and bulls, which would allow them to make a positive impact on national production and also to sustain their families. These are long-range programs targeted mainly at the development of the cattle breeding industry and not at the cattle raising activity. These in a nutshell are the main financial measures that will be implemented. The social action minister will elaborate on some of them.

[Baez] I wish to report with great satisfaction that our social agenda underwent a test at the meeting in Paris. We discussed reforms such as decentralization and participation, especially the coordination of social institutions.

Adding to what the Central Bank president said, we wish to report that to help entrepreneurs such as carpenters, shoemakers, and seamstresses, the MAS will, as soon as possible, launch a credit program for these small producers gathered in legally established production cooperatives. These cooperatives are scattered all over the Republic as faraway as Matiguas, Acoyapa, Santo Tomas, Camoapa, Laguna de Perlas, (Conailand), (Puntapolca), and so on.

The MAS, with the support of AID, has completed a nationwide pilot study, and based on this study, the government thinks cooperatives are the best instrument to reach the largest number of small businessmen who have not been able to secure credit in traditional forms.

Established cooperatives will receive technical assistance and training from the various agencies and the central government. This new program will be backed by the Central Bank and the Popular Bank. The MAS expects to create approximately 5,800 permanent jobs in the next six months and will complement the temporary jobs program, which has been started successfully already, with the creation of over 14,000 jobs.

Aware of the problems encountered by small-scale producers of basic grains who do not have access to credit, the MAS will help some 6,000 producers in distant municipalities, thus benefiting some 30,000 people, with a program of seeds and loans, to be repaid in kind, for the cultivation of one or two manzanas of land. The basic basket for agricultural farming will consist of 50 pounds of corn seed, one quintal of urea fertilizer, and (?six) pounds of insecticide, and foodstuffs. The operation will be coordinated with the MAS. The important thing is that the small-scale farmer who does not have access to loans can receive a package so that he can farm the land. He would then repay the assistance with two or

three of the 14 or 15 quintals harvested per manzana cultivated. We would then establish a revolving credit. This is a pilot program we are initiating particularly in abandoned areas. In this way, we will produce food and create jobs.

Finally, we wish to report that the Health Ministry [Minsa] has signed an agreement with AID to improve Minsa administration, improve its efficiency, increase the number of people who have access to the country's public health services, and explore and stimulate alternate financing sources in the health sector. The project consists of four parts: 1. a quick start and help for taking actions, as soon as possible, to deal with the problems of mothers and children; 2. mothers' health and children's survival, as well as immediate support for basic and preventive health; 3. administrative and financial decentralization; 4. establish financial sources to strengthen the health system.

These measures in the financial, small-scale agricultural enterprise, and health fields will be enacted as soon as possible in response to the people's needs.

[Moderator] Thank you. Before moving on to the question and answer section, let us listen to Presidential Minister Antonio Lacayo again.

[Lacayo] As you can see, the ball is in our court and Nicaraguans must now show the international community we deserve this renewed support, now and in 1994, 1995, and 1996. We will only achieve this through hard work. The businessmen must invest and risk their capital, just as it is being done by certain foreign investors. For example, Norwegian investors are involved in the Atlantic coast fishing industry. French investors are involved in the renewal of coffee plantations or the sowing of new coffee plantations. Spanish investors purchased the Montelimar Hotel. U.S. investors are involved in the purchase of cellular telephones and mining activities; and Central American investors are involved in a local brewery.

Workers must work harder, with greater love and dedication, if not for their boss then for Nicaragua and their children, who will enjoy the benefits if our economy comes through. We will compete more and better in the international markets if we increase our productivity and improve the quality of Nicaraguan products. Farmers must dedicate more time to their plot of land, increase their production, and protect the soil, forests, and water resources. Students must work harder and study harder because Nicaragua will need capable professionals who can compete with professionals who are being trained in other countries of the world and who will compete with us. Housewives must seek more favorable prices to thwart certain businessmen who want to increase their profit margin and to support businessmen who are fair and seek more moderate profit margins.

Public employees and government officials must work with greater dedication, serving the people better when their support is needed. Judges must offer better services in the justice sector. Police must support the judges and deal with contraband, rustlers, and highway robbers strictly. The Army must support the police when its support is required by the police. Politicians must end, once and for all, the partisan and personal struggle that obstructs the national reconciliation process proposed by President Violeta de Chamorro. That is the key to our country's economic and social reactivation, which is what the international community expects from us, meaning a reactivation based on solidarity.

We are glad the political parties that make up the National Opposition Union [UNO] sent a letter to Mrs. Chamorro on 2 April stating their willingness to participate in an honest and serious dialogue with her. The UNO parties' new attitude can be a lot of help even if it occurs with a three month delay. Mrs. Chamorro invited them to participate in a dialogue on 12 January. The essential thing is they are now willing to participate in a dialogue and we are glad. The government believes the task of helping Nicaragua overcome its present situation is not solely a government task. This is a task for all Nicaraguans; everyone must fulfill his duty because Nicaragua belongs to all of

This is why our president has always worked for the reconciliation of all Nicaraguans, in favor of unity of all Nicaraguans and in favor of governing—leaving by the wayside party interests—as set out in the government program. In this spirit, President Chamorro has decided to respond today to the last letter that these parties.... [pauses] the UNO parties sent her. The president has extended to them an invitation to meet with her in her offices on 3 May to engage in a frank and brotherly conversation on the nation's situation, on the past three years' achievements, and on the challenges we must face together in the coming three years. This meeting will take place following the conclusion of the visits to the nation by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias on 20 to 21 April; by the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras on 22 April; by the UN secretary general on 25 to 26 April; and by OAS Secretary General Jaoa Baena Clemente Soares, 27 to 28 April.

The national commitment between the government and all the sectors [words indistinct] must be renewed, as set out in the government program. This is aimed at reinforcing Nicaraguan reconciliation to construct democracy and peace, and to overcome the nation's overall crisis.

New opportunities have definitely been opened for Nicaragua. Now, as a newspaper said yesterday, let us get down to work. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Carlos Salgado of LA PRIMERISIMA.

[Salgado] I would like to know how much the government will lose as a result of the fiscal reforms.

[Pereira] In response to your question on how much we will lose, it is important to note that there are two types of measures; one of them definitely taxes consumer

activities and the other taxes exports or activities the government wants to encourage. Therefore, (?part of our growth will be lost) and we will perceive a limited income, the total of which has not yet been established. The income lost due to the fiscal measures has been estimated, however, at approximately 45 million cordobas for the rest of the year. This means that consumers and the commercial sector will have those 45 million cordobas to conduct economic transactions.

[Moderator] Rosemary Sordo of Tevecosep.

[Sordo] Engineer Lacayo, there has been speculation on the streets regarding a small devaluation. Can you deny or confirm this? Also, in Paris, El Salvador managed to collect $800 million. Nicaragua garnered only $140 million. Why?

[Lacayo] I thought Tevecosep was better informed and, to be quite honest, the second part of your question seems a little biased. What El Salvador received in Paris confirmed the support the international community has been expressing toward that country's peace process. We received the same treatment with loans to the order of $750 million for 1993. Most important in our case is, however, that there was a gap of approximately $140 million because we must pay more debts than we did last year. And the international community in Paris expressed its clear resolve to close that gap for us. Therefore, we not only came away with confirmation of what we already knew but with the expression of those country's political resolve to close that gap.

Regarding the first part of your question, it also seems to me that you should be better informed. There are devaluations in Nicaragua every day and they are published in the newspapers. The currency is devalued every day. I explained this on 10 January and I believe this information is published on a daily basis on a quarter of a page in local newspapers. Every day there is a small devaluation. The good thing about it is that it goes unnoticed.

[Moderator] Maria Alicia Talavera of BARRICADA.

[Talavera] Mr. Lacayo, my question regards the meeting of the Consultative Group in Paris. With regard to the $750 million, I would like you to break it down for us because it is not very clear to me whether it includes the $50 million in withheld U.S. aid. What does it include? Does it include aid pledged for U.S. fiscal year 1993 to 1994? Also, in reference to Paris, it has been said unofficially that the EC insisted very much on a national dialogue in Nicaragua; nevertheless, they did not discuss General Ortega, which is an issue upon which local politicians have insisted quite a bit. What did the EC tell the government, what demand did the EC make of the Nicaraguan Government?

[Lacayo] The international community did not make any demands. I think the atmosphere at that meeting—I must say this frankly—was friendly. I think that is a positive aspect of Nicaragua's relations with the international community. I also think it is a positive aspect of the new relationship that has been established with President Clinton's administration; there is a friendly relationship. Any concerns each party may have are handled as discussions among friends.

These individuals represent countries that want to help the Nicaraguan people succeed. Of course they have concerns and worries, one of which entails stepping up investment in Nicaragua. All of us would like to see more investment in Nicaragua by our own Nicaraguan businessmen or foreign businessmen because investments constitute cash flow brought into the country in addition to international cooperation and the credits the country attains.

They think that the more investors come to Nicaragua the better. Of course, they would like to see more people investing here and they think that the sooner the country settles the problem of property ownership and, as the World Bank communique says, the sooner the already established mechanism for land titling and compensation for the unfairly affected is enacted, the better because there would be more stability. This is a concern we share with them. We want to expedite this titling procedure. One of the local newspapers ran an ad this morning over this procedure, which will start on 23 April. In addition, the Finance Ministry's Confiscations Quantification Office [OCC], has already started issuing compensation certificates to Nicaraguans and foreigners.

The international community is in agreement on another point. They are sure that the reconciliation policy of Violeta Chamorro has been extremely successful and it has made possible a high degree of approval of what is being done. The international community attributes to this consensus the attainment of peace, the fact that democratization has progressed, the implementation of a severe structural adjustment program, and the fact that inflation has been reduced.

When some sectors disagree and do not want to talk, they become concerned and would like to see this national consensus restored. This is why the government has been reiterating to all sectors that the only means to settle the country's problems is talking and obeying the law. This is why I said earlier we are very glad that some political parties, which had been reluctant, have told President Chamorro they are willing to talk. We are happy about this and I think it will be very positive.

Regarding the military, I would say that, more than a concern, a desire was expressed so opinions on civilian control of the military in our country, which has been gathering momentum with the reduction in the number of Armed Forces members and budget, can continue to be expressed so when President Chamorro concludes her term the civilian-military relationship in our country can be an example for the rest of the Latin American countries. They were reported by the Nicaraguan delegation so that the military organization proposal under preparation, and which will be sent to the National

Assembly, will represent one step forward in the professionalization of the Armed Forces. This is my answer to the second part of your question.

As for the first part, the External Cooperation Ministry should explain the breakdown of those $750 million, which of course include the aid provided by the United States, Germany, Japan, the EC, and the long-term loans that Nicaragua has obtained from the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Central American Bank, and the Venezuelan Investment Fund. I think that the external cooperation minister might as well give the pertinent details.

In addition, the U.S. Government has committed $94 million in aid for Nicaragua for the year starting in October 1993 and ending in September. This is in addition to the aforementioned $750 million.

[Announcer] Sergio Mario Blandon, deputy minister for external cooperation, will now give specific figures on the aid that Nicaragua has received from the club of donor countries at the Paris Consultative Council.

[Moderator] Acting Foreign Cooperation Minister Sergio Mario Blandon will give a breakdown of the $700 million [amount as heard].

[Blandon] Thank you. Given that foreign cooperation, economic stabilization, economic growth, consolidation of peace and social stability, and prevention of natural disasters are priorities, it is very important to highlight the infrastructure issue. Users and intermediaries of foreign cooperation are broken down more or less as follows:

For the productive sector, $49.2 million; the economic infrastructure, $136.3 million; the social sector, $63 million; the financial sector, $202.8 million; other miscellaneous sectors, which include aid to the public sector, $99.6 million; and the resources that were secured and whose benefits were already explained, $179.7 million. That is the breakdown of the users and intermediaries of foreign cooperation for 1993.

[Moderator] Thank you very much. Alejandro Romero of Radio Sandino.

[Romero] Good morning. I just learned that 520 workers of the National Development Bank were dismissed. They are holding a general assembly at the bank headquarters near the (Sandi). Regarding the activity of this bank with the money that came for development and production, will there be a decrease? First, a conflict has been created because it seems the workers just occupied the highway to Masaya. A social conflict has been created because work is provided and then taken away. Second, won't this undermine the granting of production loans by the National Development Bank? There are several stands regarding the dialogue. Who will be involved in the dialogue? Political parties or all active forces of the country?

[Lacayo] It is a permanent policy of the Chamorro administration to hold talks with all those who want to voice their concerns and help the government solve problems. In the past six months we have met with businessmen of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, unions of the National Workers Front and the Permanent Workers Congress, leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, producers of the Region 5, and all groups that in one way or another are seeking a dialogue with the government.

We will soon meet with Western producers who have sought talks with the government. As I said on 3 May we will meet with UNO political parties. We are holding talks with centrist political parties and deputies and the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen and would hold talks with anyone seeking talks with the government.

Thus, it must become clear this is a permanent stand of the Chamorro administration. This is the instrument she decided to use since her first day in office to solve our country's problems. As for the National Development Bank, I understand that measure is part of a bank modernization plan that has been discussed with the workers for a long time. I do not know the details of this development.

We cannot allow highway blockages. This is not a social conflict but a violation of the law. We cannot [chuckles] bless highway occupations by anyone. Those things should not happen now. I am sure any problem the workers may have will be settled with the National Development Bank management. [passage omitted]

Mas Canosa Said Using Nicaraguan Visas To Get Relatives Out of Cuba

PA1504220093 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Apr 93 pp 1,8

[Article by Vladimir Lopez]

[Text] EL NUEVO DIARIO confirmed on 13 April that Jorge Mas Canosa, the CIA representative in Florida, is taking his relatives out of Cuba using Nicaraguan visas.

A recorded conversation between Telma Prego, head of the General Consulate Directorate at the Foreign Ministry, and Jorge Mas Canosa, reveals how some persons leave Cuba.

Claudia Paniagua, Foreign Ministry spokesperson, reported that through that Ministry's undertaking, Immigration had granted entry visas to Nicaragua for Cuban citizen Milagro Dorofelchu Coloma and her two daughters, Maria del Carmen and Darling Santos Dorofelchu.

The official said that the visas were granted on 26 March and that they are already at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Cuba.

As is well known, the Cuban Government only grants an exit visa to those who have an entry visa to another nation. Despite this requirement, more than 30,000 visas have been granted in the past two months.

It was learned that Mrs. Dorofelchu and her daughters have very close family ties to Jorge Mas Canosa, a confessed terrorist. According to the U.S. Senate, he was one of Colonel Oliver North's aids in the supply of weapons to the contras during the war.

It is strange that Mas Canosa, a man of great influence in the United States, chose to use Nicaragua to bring his relatives out of Cuba, when he is able to do so through any other country.

Some experts on Cuba believe that this action may be a Mas Canosa maneuver so that the Cuban community in Miami will not pressure him to remove people from the island, thereby enabling him to continue his allegations that Castro does not allow his compatriots to leave.

To inform our readers, we present a transcript—its most important parts—of the conversation between Jorge Mas Canosa and Telma Prego, high-ranking Foreign Ministry official, which took place during the last days of March.

Hello, is Telma Prego in?

Yes, this is she.

Just a minute, I am going to pass to you Jorge Mas Canosa, do not hang up.

[Mas] Hello.

[Prego] How are you, Mr. Mas Canosa, I am happy to greet you. How are you?

[Mas] I am very well, thank you. I was calling to bother you about the request I made. How does the situation stand?

[Prego] Well, I already passed it on to the Immigration Department. I spoke about this earlier with immigration officials; that is, when they received the document I requested from you. I have already passed along this document and the entire request. We will probably get a reply from them either tomorrow or the day after. The important thing is that they will probably authorize it, because the only thing missing was that document. As soon as I have an answer from the Immigration Department, I will either send you a fax or call you, and immediately I would send our embassy in Cuba a notification so it will notify your relatives that they have a visa to come to Nicaragua.

[Mas] Telma, I am so grateful. You are going to provide some truly humanitarian assistance by taking this family out; they are suffering so much over there. Now, Telma, with regard to this notification that you are going to send the embassy so it will notify my relatives: Is there any way that I could obtain a copy so I could send it through my own means to my relatives? In other words, I would send it directly to someone in Santiago, because communications in Cuba are terrible. Perhaps even the embassy is going to have difficulties in getting it.

[Prego] Yes, that is right, because a call has to be placed all the way over there.

[Mas] It is 1,200 km away, and there are hardly any telephones over there. All the lines are destroyed; transportation is almost impossible. It took my brother-in-law seven days to travel from Santiago de Cuba to Havana. I can send someone over there to visit and have him take the notification. With that paper in hand, my relatives can request their passports.

[Prego] Let us do something, Mr. Mas Canosa. Due to the existing problems there are with matters related to the visas, we feel that all documents sent internally to our consulates are official documents. Therefore we avoid giving them out. At any rate, I am not going to send you the notification saying that we are authorizing the visas for these persons. Rather, in a separate note, we are going to say that we have notified the Nicaraguan Embassy that the following persons, so and so, are authorized to enter Nicaragua with a residency visa, so that they will receive them. They must go to the consulate, the consulate will give them a document while the consulate is expediting the processing of their exit from Cuba.

[Mas] This letter would be addressed to that family in Cuba.

[Prego] In other words, I would send a letter to them, directly.

[Mas] That is correct.

[Prego] So that the authorized person or person would please present themselves to the Nicaraguan Consulate.

[Mas] Signed by someone there, from the directorate.

[Prego] Signed by the Consulate Directorate, signed by me. At any rate, it would be a Consulate Directorate document, do not worry.

[Mas] Perfect, I can have that letter sent to them. I send someone from here, from Miami, so that he will go to Santiago Cuba; I send them this letter so they will then request their passport and they can go to the Nicaraguan Embassy. They can go over there, because it is going to be very difficult for the Nicaraguan Embassy to contact them.

[Prego] Very well. They have to go to Havana, of course, for the business of the passport.

[Mas] That is correct.

[Prego] It would be best....

[Mas, interrupting] Pardon, they would have to go to the Passport Office in Santiago. In other words, when they have the passport, they must go to Havana to seek the visa.

[Prego] OK. What we are going to do is the following: The letter is not going to be addressed to them, but to Angelina. I am going to send her the original, and you will get the copy.

[Mas] OK, OK.

[Prego] Good. Mr. Mas Canosa, I was going to ask you something else. You know that we are doing something personal for you; that is, with the visas. I have already explained to Ines that we would have a big problem if others find out about this. Definitely we could not do this. Although we understand the situation and the problems over there, we could not grant all the visas for which we would be asking. Therefore, I would appreciate if you would be very discreet about the visas.

[Mas] Telma, I have to do this in my own interest, and besides, because I am so grateful to you and my friend the engineer and the president. I am very obliged to you, and rest assured that I am going to handle this not only very discreetly but also in strict confidentiality. Ernesto Leal, who is great friend, has no reason to worry at all because this is something very intimate for my family and nobody has to find out about it.

[Prego] OK, Mr. Mas Canosa, forgive me for saying that, but I am very worried, not exactly over you, but because we are going to have many requests, and we are going to have a very big problem, please excuse me.

[Mas] I am glad you asked me that, so that you can be at ease.

[Prego] Well, I will let you know and I will send you a copy of what we will send our consul in Havana. You can tell them, when you contact them, that they will get their visas, and once they enter Nicaragua, they must report no later than 30 days to the Immigration Department, where they will be given their ID's. You can even tell them that they can look me up, here at the Consulate Directorate. From here, I can send them to the person they must see at Immigration, where they will have to fill out forms and will be given their residency ID's.

[Mas] Surely, madam, her husband and my wife will be waiting for you in Managua. They will meet you and thank you very much for this effort to bring them to the United States as soon as possible. Otherwise, I would take them to Costa Rica and hold them there for 30 or 60 days so they can come.

[Prego] OK, Mr. Mas Canosa, everything will be fine.

[Mas] I will do everything possible to be discreet. There is no reason for anyone to know that the Mas Canosa family is in Managua. I think this is the best way of doing it. Thank you very much for everything. Call me back as soon as you have news.

[Prego] I will let you know immediately.

[Mas] Thanks again, Telma. May God bless you.

[Prego] OK, Mr. Mas Canosa. Thanks.

Leal Confirms Mas Canoso's Use of Visas

PA1604020493 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 Apr 93 pp 1, 8

[Article by Vladimir Lopez]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal confirmed that secret visas are being arranged so that the relatives of anti-Castro leader Jorge Mas Canoso can come to Nicaragua. The minister also confirmed that the conversation published by EL NUEVO DIARIO in the 14 April edition is genuine.

The foreign minister said: "There was a telephone call and the summary published by EL NUEVO DIARIO is true."

Leal, who called a news conference to outline the Foreign Ministry's position in light of the article published by this daily, was accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais and Telma Prego, director of the Consular Department.

Mrs. Prego, who is directly in charge of making the arrangements so that Mas Canosa's relatives can leave Cuba, appeared quite nervous. Her silence incriminated her; she did not utter a word.

EL NUEVO DIARIO's 14 April edition published part of the telephone conversation between Jorge Mas Canosa and Telma Prego. During the conversation they agreed on the procedure to be used to get Mas Canosa's relatives who are still in Cuba. [passage omitted]

According to EL NUEVO DIARIO's recording, Prego asked Mas Canoso "to be as discreet as possible with regard to those visas."

When making reference to that part of the conversation, Leal explained that "the director [Prego] asked for discretion. This was requested not because something illegal was being done, rather it was to avoid an avalanche of visa requests from Cuba."

"This is done discreetly, given the requirements demanded in these cases. You must recall that the right to grant visas is a sovereign right of the Nicaraguan State," Leal said.

Leal added: "We have set up a number of restrictions, if these are met, the visas are granted."

Leal denied that the granting of the visas is a special concession toward Mas Canosa. "Any person who meets the requirements for temporary residence will be granted a visa, at the Nicaraguan Government's discretion," Leal said.

The minister said that the publication of the recording is a serious matter, but he did not focus on the problem that could be generated for granting a visa to a sworn

enemy of a government [Cuba] with which we have diplomatic relations. Rather, Leal emphasized the conversation's interception.

"The critical matter here is that the interception of those telephone conversations puts national security on the line given that very delicate matters are dealt with at the Foreign Ministry. Therefore, official conversations cannot be intercepted," Leal said.

Leal said he did not know if the recording was made from inside or outside of the ministry. Nevertheless, he reported that an immediate investigation had been ordered.

"I sent a letter today [14 April] to the government minister to investigate from where the recording was made," he reported.

Nevertheless, the foreign minister said that the measure was not meant to restrict freedom of expression. Leal made it understood that the measure was to guarantee the privacy of telephone conversations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais said that the investigation had been requested by the Government Ministry "for recording an official conversation, which is a crime."

"We are not investigating the fact that the recording was published by EL NUEVO SIGLO. We are investigating the crime committed by recording a conversation of an official in a very sensitive ministry," he said.

Upon hearing this statement, the reporters at the news conference reminded the officials that the recording was not of an official conversation, unless Jorge Mas Canosa was now an official of some government.

This remark visibly annoyed the almost always composed foreign minister, who blushed and ended the news conference, refusing to accept any further questions.

Government Pledges To Facilitate Mill Shipment to Cuba

PA1504141593 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Apr 93 p 4

[Report by Pablo Emilio Barreto]

[Excerpt] The government has pledged to facilitate the shipment of 7,000 pounds of milk to Cuba. The milk has been donated by hundreds of Nicaraguan people in solidarity with Cuban children, it was reported on 13 April by Melania Vega, coordinator of a committee of solidarity with the Caribbean island.

The government announced its pledge after leaders of the Committee of Solidarity With Cuba delivered to Presidency Spokesman Danilo Lacayo a letter addressed to President Violeta Chamorro.

Lacayo requested information about the committee's needs and said the authorities were interested in helping the committee send aid to Cuban children.

In the letter delivered to Lacayo, the committee leaders also request the president's "mediation and contribution to carry out a cultural telethon on 14 May for the benefit of Cuban children."

They specifically ask that television channel 6 and Radio Nicaragua join the telethon. They also requested the use of the Ruben Dario Theater for a cultural show, with the same goal in mind.

Vega said Austrian Development Services donated $1,000 to be sent to Cuban children, who fared the worst during the storm of the century, which caused $1 billion in losses to the Cuban economy. [passage omitted]

Panama

Endara Views Drug Trafficking, Amnesty Issues

PA1504212093 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] President Guillermo Endara Galimany has stated that police Major Rodrigo Colon Sanchez must be investigated and should be separated from his post as chief of the Police Academy for his alleged links to drug trafficking. At the inauguration of a social project in Cocle, Endara also referred to the alleged rigging of bidding offers and the amnesty issue.

The president inaugurated a water purification plant in Capellania, a community located in Nata, Cocle Province. The plant cost $900,000 and will benefit more than 23,000 people in Capellania and nearby communities.

Endara expressed concern over the problem of drug trafficking and the charges against Maj. Colon Sanchez. Colon Sanchez is accused of receiving bribes from drug traffickers while he was in charge of the police in Bocas del Toro Province.

[Begin Endara recording] He must be investigated and if he is found guilty, then the law must prevail. However, if he is found innocent, then he must be reinstated in the position of prestige he has been holding until now. [end recording]

The president also discussed the alleged rigging of bidding offers. He said that it is not true that there are irregularities in that regard. He also stressed that this is a case of pressure by the owner of a newspaper who wants the government to approve a concession for him.

[Begin Endara recording] He is hurting. Thus, he wants all bidding to be fouled up to discredit them. He looked for the wrong case. The case of the Gatun tanks is a clear case. Three people participated in the bid. One of them clearly won. He has been granted this bid temporarily. The newspaper owner said that [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The president explained that a commission will assess and clarify this matter.

In later remarks to the media, Endara discussed the amnesty issue. He emphasized that Colonel Eduardo Herrera should not be benefited by it.

[Begin Endara recording] He used weapons and seized a garrison, going against the will of the president and the government minister. [end recording]

The president also noted that the case of [former President] Manuel Solis Palma is very difficult.

[Begin recording] [Endara] I think it involves some accusations affecting the public treasury. If this is true, then the crime was not political.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] General State Council?

[Endara] If it was the General State Council which, acting as such and going against every constitutional regulation, chose [Francisco] Pancho Rodriguez as the president of the Republic—a very stupid thing to do—then it committed a political crime. I know there are people in exile for that. I believe that people in such cases should receive an amnesty. If they were convicted, the most probable thing would be that I grant them an executive pardon.

[Reporter] It is being said that the amnesty will be negotiated as the election campaign nears.

[Endara] I think that the word negotiated is not the correct word. I think that there can be conversations and a dialogue on the amnesty. There can be no negotiations. [end recording]

Chitre Residents Complain About Alleged U.S. Overflight

PA1504195793 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by Leo Alvarado from Azuero peninsula]

[Text] The flight of a U.S. plane over the city of Chitre, Herrera Province, caused damage and panic among residents.

On the morning of 15 April, a U.S. F-14 Tomcat warplane of the U.S. Southern Command flew over the cities of Chitre, Los Santos, and nearby areas several times. The overflights caused panic and disturbance among some people and joy among others.

Many people have described this incident as a violation of national airspace, because there is no report on the government authorizing this type of aircraft to carry out military maneuvers in this region. The plane flew over the locations at a low altitude, shaking the windows of commercial outlets and the roofs of homes, and causing a lot of noise.

Currently the U.S. Southern Command is carrying out the road building project Fuertes Caminos 93 in the Azuero region, encompassing the Provinces of Los Santos and Herrera. People complained that no combat plane is needed to carry out these works, and there is no airport in the region where this plane can land.

The community of Azuero has asked government authorities to demand an explanation for this maneuver conducted by the warplane on the morning of 15 April.

Group Declares Rigoberto Paredes 1994 PRD Candidate

PA1504235493 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Report by Alexandra Ciniglio]

[Text] Members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] on 14 April announced that Rigoberto Paredes would be a party candidate for president in 1994. Rigoberto Paredes arrived accompanied by a few PRD members, not only to announce his candidacy, but to present his government platform. The work plan comprises over 50 points and is based, according to him, on a modern and scientific Torrijos model.

[Begin Paredes recording] People are saying they yearn for the days of Torrijos, so how can anyone say that the people resented or were frustrated during the Torrijos era. No, the people are frustrated now with what took place after the invasion. I do not believe that people only are frustrated with this government. Of course there was much frustration in the Torrijos days. Let us be honest, not everything that could have been accomplished was accomplished. Not everything that could have been done in favor of the people was done, but those things that were accomplished are there for all to see. [end recording]

Rigoberto Paredes presented a national development plan, which includes not only the most general aspects such as social problems, but also mentions sports incentives and plans to halt the spread of AIDS. This announcement has not been well received by some political sectors and apparently does not have the entire PRD support.

[Begin recording] [PRD Legislator Balbina Herrera] Right now the party is choosing presidential candidates. But the bottom line, however, is that the PRD congress delegates are the persons who will finally decide this.

[Ciniglio] Would this gentleman have party support?

[Herrera] I think so.... [pauses] It depends; I think it would depend on the area.

[Christian Democratic Party Legislator Jose Torres] It seems incredible and ironic that the person who helped create violent groups, the person who as legislator permitted all sorts of government corruption, should seek to run for president. We cannot forget when President

Chiari asked Paredes to resign as deputy treasury minister because of something Paredes did at the time. Afterward, he joined the dictatorship and was one of the people who backed Noriega the most. Let us not forget when Paredes described Noriega in the National Assembly as a real hot general [general cachinbon]. I cannot see where this gentleman's morals are in wanting to play with something so serious as the Republic of Panama's 1994 presidency. [end recording]

It should be noted that Rigoberto Paredes' announcement as PRD presidential candidate is not official because the PRD presidential candidate will be decided during the party convention.

Public Denied Access to Assembly, PRD Legislators Pull Out

PA1504220593 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] In order to guarantee law and order, the Legislative Assembly has announced that beginning on 15 April the general public will be denied access to the gallery of the Panamanian Assembly.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] warned that it will not accept this imposition, adding that beginning on the afternoon of 15 April, Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier will place riot police outside the Assembly building to prevent the entry of demonstrators.

[Begin recording] [Legislative Assembly Vice President Alberto Cigarruista] We are tired of asking the attending public to remain calm. We are tired of asking them to show respect and composure. They have not been calm, respectful, or law-abiding citizens, therefore, they do not deserve to come to the house of the Panamanian people.

Why did we close the doors of the Assembly? Because none of the political forces—neither the ones demanding amnesty nor the ones opposing it—have behaved properly. To maintain an open-door policy that allows this kind of behavior to continue would be like becoming an accomplice. I repeat, we did not make this decision because of the death of a woman in the Assembly building on 14 April. We had made this decision before Holy Week.

We hoped that during Holy Week Panamanians could analyze the situation and find it in themselves to return to the Assembly with better manners. They have not displayed any evidence of change; they have not been able to overcome this situation. Therefore, neither of the two groups has the right to demand that the doors remain open.

[Gerardo Gonzalez, PRD president and legislator] The PRD will not participate in legislative sessions behind closed doors. According to the internal Assembly regulations, the sessions are open to the public.

We will not accept the attempt to conduct sessions behind closed doors and without radio transmissions, as was done on 7 April. We want to discuss the draft amnesty bill and any other issue at this Assembly before the eyes of the country. [end recording]

Linares Rejects Peruvian Decision on Wittgreen

PA1504233393 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares on 14 April went before the Legislative Assembly Foreign Relations Commission to explain why the Panamanian Government declined to join the Rio Group and the Peruvian courts' refusal to extradite Carlos Whitgreen. He said the Whitgreen decision was not due to negligence or incompetence on the part of the Foreign Ministry but incompetence on the part of the Peruvian courts.

Linares said the Peruvian courts are lying shamelessly when they say there were mistakes in the presentation of the extradition documents. He said the decision dishonors Peruvian courts and that the president of Peru was right when he said Peruvian justice discredits his nation.

Linares emphasized that in practice extradition does not work but if it is presented it must be processed.

Colombian, Panamanian Border Commissions Hold First Meeting

PA1604034293 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Apr 93 p 9a

[Text] The first meeting between the Colombian and Panamanian Border Commissions took place in Panama City. In addition to economic integration the working groups discussed the possibility of completing construction of the Pan-American Highway at the Darien Gap.

Its completion would not only link the two neighboring countries but the northern and southern hemispheres. The Darien Gap, more than a geographical barrier, historically has been a symbol of the nearly century-long separation of the two countries.

The meeting held recently in Panama was the first opportunity the two countries had to discuss mutual interests that could lead to the future signing of bilateral agreements. Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio, Public Works Minister Jorge Bendeck Olivella, Communications Minister William Jaramillo Gomez, Deputy Political Affairs Minister [title as published] Andelfo Garcia, and representatives of the private sector represented Colombia at the meeting.

Public Works Minister Jorge Bendeck, who presented the Colombian initiative, said "the Pan-American Highway is the only incomplete international highway

although it is the world's most important; its construction stands as a challenge for the two nations because the whole world is attentive to this."

Bendeck said Colombia will maintain its goal of completing its stretch of the highway and for this purpose has earmarked a significant amount of resources for the elaboration of draft budgets.

In response to the Colombian initiative, Panamanian Public Works Minister Alfredo Arias said completion of the stretch of the highway that leads to the Colombian border is a necessity for his government but not a priority at this time.

Arias pointed out his government is, for the time being, trying to repair lengthy stretches of the highway that are not yet paved.

He added Panama is facing more urgent problems in Darien such as ravaged and underused areas where the government is trying to make the necessary corrections through legislative measures.

Arias said the construction of a port in La Palma and completion of the Meteti-Puerto Quimba highway are possible solutions, which are immediately feasible, to solve bilateral transportation problems.

Representatives of environmental groups who participated in the border commission meeting demanded that the design and planning of the uncompleted stretch of the Pan-American Highway include measures to prevent damage to the region (rich in biological diversity) by uncontrolled colonization and suggested binational protective measures.

Other issues discussed during the meeting included trade, economic development, transportation, communications, energy, natural resources, environment, judicial cooperation, immigration, education, culture, and tourism.

As for the issues of trade and economic development, Colombia hopes to achieve integration based on its experience with Venezuela. The respective subcommission studied investment and trade possibilities between the two countries, especially in the areas of their economies that are complementary.

The subcommission urged the two governments to define procedures leading to the signing of a bilateral free trade agreement of limited scope in the next three months.

The subcommission reminded the two governments that "advancement of trade between the two countries requires greater development of transportation means."

Bolivia

'Text' of Economic Agreement Signed With Chile

PY1504205993 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 6 Apr 93 pp B2-B3

["Text" of Bolivian-Chilean Economic Complementation Agreement signed by Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean Abaroa and his Chilean Counterpart Enrique Silva Cimma in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on 6 April 1993]

[Text] The government of the Republic of Bolivia and the government of the Republic of Chile,

CONSIDERING:

The need to strengthen Latin American integration in order to achieve the objectives established in the 1980 Montevideo Treaty through the establishment of broad bilateral and multilateral agreements;

The active participation of Bolivia and Chile in the Latin American Integration Association [ALADI] as member signatories of the treaty;

The advantages of fully exploiting the negotiation mechanisms established in the 1980 Montevideo Treaty;

The provisions of the 1980 Montevideo Treaty, which grant the Republic of Bolivia preferential treatment as a country of lesser economic development;

The coincidences existing within the economic and commercial opening in both countries, which involve tariffs and the elimination of non-tariff restrictions as well as basic guidelines on their respective economic policies;

The adequate level of cooperation in the areas of goods and services, which is so important for the economic development of the signatories of the treaty;

The advantages of an increasingly active participation by the economic agents of the signatories, governed by clear and predictable rules for the development of trade and investment;

THEY AGREE: To sign an Economic Complementation Agreement in accordance with the provisions of the 1980 Montevideo Treaty and with Resolution 2 of the Council of Ministers of LAFTA [Latin American Free Trade Association]. Such Agreement will be ruled by said provisions and the rules which are hereby established:

CHAPTER I.
Objectives of the Agreement Article 1. The objectives of this agreement are:

a) To set the bases for an increasing and progressive integration of the economies of the signatories of the agreement;

b) To facilitate, expand, and diversify the exchange of goods and services among the signatories, promoting and stimulating productive activities within their territories, and to facilitate investments by each signatory in the territory of the other;

c) To create the conditions for a harmonious and balanced development in the field of bilateral trade;

d) To serve as a legal and institutional framework for the development of broader economic cooperation in areas of mutual interest; and

e) To establish mechanisms to promote an active participation of private economic agents in the efforts to achieve the expansion and increase in economic relations among countries signatories of the agreement, and to achieve the progressive integration of their economies.

CHAPTER II.
Liberalization Program Article 2. The signatories agree to grant each other preferential tariff concessions according as follows:

a) Chile hereby grants Bolivia tariff concessions, without reciprocity, on certain imports from that country. The classification, treatment, and conditions of which are specified in Annex I of this agreement.

b) The signatories agree to liberate from taxes the importation of products included in Annexes II and III of this agreement.

C) Annex IV includes those products on which tariff preferences were applied in the Partial Scope Agreement [Acuerdo de Alcance Parcial] that was signed between Bolivia and Chile within the framework of ALADI. This agreement has not investigated to see if these tariff preferences favor of either country, and they remain unchanged.

d) The signatories will, through common negotiation and agreement, add new products to Annexes II and III and increase the tariff preferences in Annex IV of this agreement.

Article 3. Under this agreement, the word "obligations" will be used to define customs duties and any other similar expenditure, whether of fiscal, monetary, exchange, or any other nature, that may be levied on imports.

This agreement does not include taxes and similar surcharges when these are equivalent to the cost of the services provided. [sentence as published]

Article 4. The signatories will make every effort to avoid adopting measures that may hinder reciprocal trade.

The signatories will not impose any non-tariff restrictions on imports or exports of products included in the Liberalization Program, except those falling under the 1980 Treaty of Montevideo.

Said "restrictions" include any administrative, financial, or exchange measure, or any means by which a signatory unilaterally impedes or hinders its imports or exports.

CHAPTER III
Country of Origin Article 5. The benefits of the Liberalization Program of this agreement will apply exclusively to the products originating in signatory countries.

Article 6. For imports made under the Liberalization Program, the signatories will enforce the General System of Origin of LAIA [Latin American Integration Association], which was adopted through Resolution 78 by the committee of LAIA representatives, without precluding enforcement of the specific conditions of origin as established in this agreement or by the administration commission mentioned in Chapter XI.

CHAPTER IV
Safeguard clauses

Article 7. Through prior notification, signatories may enforce the LAIA Regional Safeguard System—which the LAIA representatives committee approved in Resolution 70—on imports made under the Liberalization Program, with the restrictions mentioned in the next article.

Article 8. When imports of products protected by the Liberalization Program causes or threatens to cause—through quantities or operational terms—"serious damage" to the production of similar domestic products or products that are in direct competition with such imports, signatories may adopt measures for up to one year, although not indiscriminately.

Any extension of this term requires joint revision by the signatories to analyze the background and justification of such measure.

Any extended measures may not surpass one year, should be softer, and should be totally eliminated upon expiration of the extension.

Article 9. Within 90 days of being created, the administrative commission of this Agreement will define "serious damage," and will establish rules for the enforcement of the terms of this chapter.

CHAPTER V
Unfair Commercial Practices and Competition Conditions

Article 10. Signatories condemn "dumping" [preceding word in English] and all unfair commercial practices, as well as the granting of subsidies on exports or similar internal subsidies.

Article 11. In cases of dumping or competition distortions in reciprocal trade—as a result of subsidies on exports or similar subsidies—that affect products included or not in the Liberalization Program, the affected signatory will adopt the corrective measures provided for in its laws.

Signatories will follow the criteria and procedures current within the GATT at the time this agreement was signed.

CHAPTER VI
Evaluation of the Agreement

Article 12. Signatories will regularly evaluate—at least every three years—the resolutions and preferences granted under this agreement, in order to make harmonious and balanced progress in reciprocal trade and in the attainment of the other objectives set forth in Article 1.

To this end, the administration commission established in Chapter XI of this agreement will perform the functions through which the evaluation and examination will be made. The result of their work will be reported in resolutions by the commission, or in protocols that will be annexed to this agreement, in line with the legal nature of such resolutions.

CHAPTER VII
Internal Taxation Regulations

Article 13. In keeping with the terms of Article 46 of the 1980 Treaty of Montevideo, products originating from one signatory country will, in the territory of the other signatory country, be levied a tax, fee, or internal tariff treatment equal to one levied on similar local products.

CHAPTER VIII
Investments

Article 14. To encourage the circulation of capital and complementary investments between the two countries, the signatories will adopt, among others, the following criteria when implementing their corresponding internal legislation:

a) Capital derived from one signatory will be treated no less favorably in the other country than that which is granted to capital derived from any other country, and;

b) Capital derived from any of the signatories will be treated no less favorable in the other signatory country than that granted to national capital.

These guidelines will be implemented without detriment to the full enforcement of what is established in the constitutions and the current pertinent laws in the signatory countries.

CHAPTER IX
Energy Complementation

Article 15. The signatories will promote complementary energy studies and research in electricity, geothermic and hydrocarbons.

These activities will be conducted through the pertinent national organizations and through the technical commission established in the letter of intent that was signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 12 November 1990 by the

Bolivian Energy and Hydrocarbons minister and the vice chairman of the National Energy Commission of Chile [Comision Nacional de Energia de Chile].

Article 16. Based on the guidelines established in the agreement of understanding signed in La Paz, Bolivia, on 20 June 1991 by the Bolivian Energy and Hydrocarbons minister and the vice chairman of the National Energy Commission of Chile, the signatories will undertake the pertinent promotion of the implementation of specific energy integration projects.

The signatories will strive to achieve future understandings for the purchase and sale of Bolivian natural gas whenever the availability of Bolivian natural gas reserves so allow; when its production is not consigned; and when the appropriate economic and technical conditions are feasible.

Article 17. The purchase and financing of Bolivian natural gas sales and the construction of a pipeline may be carried out by private companies or consortiums from Bolivia, Chile, third countries, and international financial institutions in compliance with the laws in force in each signatory country.

Article 18. Based on the work carried out by the technical commission mentioned in Article 15, the signatories will discuss the need to negotiate and sign, in due time, additional laws as needed to regulate the implementation of energy integration projects, and in particular, those projects related to the use of Bolivian natural gas.

CHAPTER X
Economic Cooperation

Article 19. The signatory countries will promote cooperation in areas such as:

a) Regulations and control systems for animal and plant health;

b) Technical regulations for food treatment [bromatologicas];

c) Public health and safety regulations;

d) Tourism activities with the objective of contributing to a reciprocal awareness of the historic and cultural values of signatory countries;

e) Data processing and trade areas;

f) The promotion of activities to increase exchanges in the technological field, particularly in the agricultural, agro- industrial, industrial, mining, and communications areas;

g) Regulations and control systems to safeguard the environment; and;

h) Patents laws and regulations.

To implement joint cooperation programs in these areas, the pertinent organizations in the respective areas in each signatory country may achieve agreements within the framework of their attributions.

The agreement administrative commission will promote the achievement of these actions and will inform an the progress of the agreements achieved.

CHAPTER XI
Agreement Administrative Commission

Article 20. The administration of the present agreement will be entrusted to a commission composed of high-ranking government representatives to be appointed by the signatories.

The administrative commission will hold ordinary sessions once a year at a time and place to be established by mutual agreement. It will hold extraordinary sessions, for prior consultation, whenever the signatory countries so agree.

The delegations appointed to attend the agreement administrative commission meetings will be headed by a high-ranking government official to be appointed by the respective governments and it will include delegates and advisers.

This commission must be established within 90 days of the signing of the agreement and will be entrusted with establishing its own norms and regulations during its first session.

Article 21. The administrative commission will have the following jurisdictions, attributions and functions:

a. To oversee the enforcement of this agreement;

b. To periodically evaluate the regulations of this agreement;

c. To periodically examine and evaluate the results of the Liberalization Program for bilateral trade, as established in this agreement, and to promote the necessary consultations and negotiations for the adoption of measures to improve the program;

d. To agree, in accordance with the regulations contained in Chapter II of this agreement, on the inclusion of new products to the Annexes II, III and IV;

e. To ensure that the tariffs adopted for the products incorporated in the Annexes I, II, II and IV of this agreement are regularly updated;

f. To promote consultations and negotiations, and to agree on the measures needed for the application of the regulations of this agreement on specific requirements of origin, safeguard clauses, disloyal trade practices, and competition conditions;

g. To promote the consultations and negotiations needed to stimulate economic cooperation between the signatories in accordance with the regulations contained in

Chapter X of this agreement, and to coordinate the activities jointly carried out by the competent national organizations;

h. To take the necessary steps to solve controversies based on the regulations contained in Chapter XIII of this agreement;

i. To request the advice and opinion of the business advisory committee, and to consider the reports, recommendations, initiatives, and proposals to be submitted especially with regard to the inclusion of new products in the Annexes II, III and IV;

j. To approve, correct or replace its own regulation;

k. To propose to the signatories the enlargement, correction or replacement of this agreement; and

l. To exercise other rights and to fulfill the other functions empowered by this agreement.

Article 22. The agreements resulting from competition and from the functions of the administrative commission, which are related to specific issues that are not regulated in detail by the regulations of this agreement, will be formalized through additional protocols and will be protected by the juridical framework established therein.

Article 23. Institutional links between the signatories and the administrative commission will be handled by competent national organizations assigned by each country.

They will maintain communications and links between the signatories in all areas related to the enforcement of this agreement.

CHAPTER XII
Business Advisory Committee

Article 24. To promote and stimulate the greater participation of business groups in the implementation of this agreement, a business advisory committee is hereby created. It will comprise representatives of business organizations of the signatories.

This committee, which will be an advisory organization, will help the administrative committee to fulfill its functions and will thus facilitate the implementation of the objectives established in this agreement.

Article 25. The business advisory committee will have the following jurisdictions, attributions, and functions;

a. To advise the administrative commission on all issues included in this agreement and in those areas where it would contribute to enlarge and strengthen economic relations between the signatories, particularly in business cooperation;

b. To propose initiatives to the administrative commission on ways to apply mechanisms and better fulfill the objectives established in this agreement, especially on matters of bilateral economic cooperation and on matters related to investments, the circulation of capital, and joint investments;

c. To propose to the administrative committee the incorporation of new products to the annexes of this agreement;

d. To examine, in accordance with its jurisdiction, the results of the application of the mechanisms of this agreement;

e. To promote understanding and operational agreements of reciprocal cooperation between the business organizations of the signatory countries; and

g. To carry out other activities or tasks expressly requested by the administrative committee and to conduct tasks that result from common agreement by the delegations of the business organizations of the signatories.

CHAPTER XIII
Solution of Controversies

Article 26. To solve any controversies that may emerge in the interpretation of the regulations contained in this agreement, or in their application or non-fulfillment, or in their use for any other reason than the one established in Chapter V, the signatories will subject themselves to the procedures indicated in the following articles.

Article 27. The signatory country that finds that it is affected by a situation that does not follow the law, which is based on a unilateral position, or by a situation derived from a violation of the present agreement will advise the other signatory country—through the national organization referred to in Article 23—of its observations. The signatory country in violation will answer the objections raised against it within 15 days.

If the country in violation fails to answer within the established period, or if the answer does not satisfy the affected party, a process of direct negotiation will immediately be set in motion through the national organization referred to in Article 23, or through the administrating commission, whichever the affected party chooses.

In the latter case, the commission will meet within 20 days of receiving the application.

To better fulfill its mission, the administrating commission will be empowered to request the technical opinion of experts or independent specialized organizations. These opinions will be considered as additional evidence when making a decision.

Article 28. If, after direct negotiations with the national organization or the administrating commission over a period of 30 days, which can be extended by mutual agreement, the signatories cannot reach a satisfactory solution to the controversy, the conflict will be considered by an arbitration commission made up of three

well-known experts. Each of the signatories will designate one expert. The third expert, who will preside over the commission and who will not be a national of either of the signatory countries, will be designated by ALADI and selected from a list of names that the administrating commission will elaborate annually to handle such cases.

The arbitration commission will begin deliberating within 20 days of the designation of its three members.

Article 29. The arbitration commission will follow what will be established in an arbitration procedure code that will be adopted by the administrating commission within 90 days of its creation.

The arbitration commission will issue its decision through a resolution within 60 days of the date it is issued.

Article 30. Arbitration commission members will consider all situations and facts presented to them and will judge the controversy.

Article 31. The arbitration commission's resolution must contain a declaration stating whether the situation raised constitutes a violation or an interpretation that is not according to the law, and must state what measures the violating country must implement to rectify the situation.

The commission must also elaborate on the measures the affected country may implement if the violating country does not follow what is decided in the resolution.

Article 32. The arbitration commission's resolution will be unappealable and only a petition for clarification will be acceptable. The resolution will be compulsory for the signatories as of the date of its notification.

The nonfulfillment of a resolution will be a valid reason for the other country to temporarily suspend the application of part or the entire agreement. The affected country will be empowered to denounce the agreement if the nonfulfillment persists.

CHAPTER XIV
Validity and Duration

Article 33. The present agreement will become effective on the date it is signed by both signatories and will remain effective indefinitely.

Article 34. Tariff preferences included in Annexes II, III, and IV of the present agreement will remain effective indefinitely.

Notwithstanding what was previously stipulated, the signatories have decided by common consent that tariff preferences and quotas included in Annex I of the present agreement may be reviewed every five years. If the signatories decline to review the tariff preferences and quotas, they will continue unchanged for another five years.

If the signatories agree to suspend said tariff preferences, a reduction over three years will be applied to each quota.

Article 35. Tariff preferences included in the present agreement will come into force on 1 July. Until this time, the signatories will implement the necessary administrative measures in their respective countries to enable them to simultaneously implement the aforementioned measures.

CHAPTER XV
Adhesion

Article 36. Other ALADI members may join the present agreement after due negotiations have been successfully concluded.

Article 37. Once the terms for joining have been settled between the ALADI member and the signatories, the former will join the present agreement by signing an addendum protocol, which will come into force 30 days after it has been filed before the ALADI secretary general.

CHAPTER XVI
Notice of termination

Article 38. The signatory country that decides to rescind the present agreement must give 180 days' notice to the other signatory countries. The notice of termination must be filed before the ALADI secretary general.

Article 39. Once the notice of termination has been filed, acquired rights and contracted obligations by the rescinding party will automatically cease, except for the trade preferences which had either been granted or received and which will continue for a period of a year from the date on which the termination notice was filed.

CHAPTER XVII
Convergence

Article 40. During the ALADI Evaluation and Convergence Conference meetings, as provided for in Article 33 of the 1980 Treaty of Montevideo, signatories and ALADI members will jointly study the possibility of other ALADI members' sharing the tariff preferences granted—or to be granted—within the framework of the present agreement.

CHAPTER XVIII
Final Provisions

Article 41. Following the signing of the present agreement, pursuant to the provisions established in the 1980 Treaty of Montevideo and the resolutions of the council of ministers of the ALADI, the signatories will inform other ALADI members of the content of said agreement in accordance with the established procedures.

Article 42. Once the signatories comply with the provisions established in Articles 33 and 35, the present

agreement will come into force. Consequently, the Partial Renegotiation Agreement (No. 14927) and its addenda and amendments will become null and void.

Signed in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Republic of Bolivia, on 6 April 1993, on two original copies, which were duly certified.

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Bolivia, Ronald MacLean Abaroa, minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship.

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Chile, Enrique Silva Cimma, minister of Foreign Affairs.

Brazil

Communique Warns Against Separatist Movements

PY1504174493 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] The federal government yesterday issued a warning to the movements that want to separate states from our national territory. The warning was issued through an official communique released by Justice Minister Mauricio Correa, which condemned the initiative advocated by these separatist groups.

[Begin journalist Antonio Carlos Silva recording] The justice minister expressed his concern about the growth of the separatist movements, especially in southern Brazil. He disclosed that such groups have been meeting outside Brazil, plotting—according to the minister—against Brazilian territory.

Minister Mauricio Correa described the separatists as traitors to the fatherland. He said the government will investigate the facts and punish those involved, based on the constitution. The constitution establishes the indissolubility of the states and the federal district.

In the communique entitled Separatism and Allurement, the government notes that any attempt to disrupt the country's unity represents a crime against Brazilian constitutional order.

The justice minister also noted that President Itamar Franco will not permit this type of disorder and that, as of today, the Justice Ministry will carefully monitor the developments of the discussions by such groups and take action in accordance with constitutional provisions. [end recording]

Colombian Minister Offers New Mechanisms, Anti-Terror Help

PY1504143093 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The Brazilian and Colombian Governments will be able to implement new mechanisms to control the transportation and sales of chemicals to the two countries. This suggestion was made by Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin, who also offered his country's antiterrorist police assistance for the training of Brazilian policemen assigned to the anti-kidnapping division.

Today, the Colombian minister will meet with Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola and [Rio de Janeiro] Mayor Cesar Maia.

Former Minister Krausse Against Talks on Forming New Party

PY1504142493 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Former Economy Minister Gustavo Krausse has said it is too early to hold talks on forming a new party led by Pernambuco Governor Joaquim Francisco and Minas Gerais Governor Helio Garcia.

Krausse believes it is too early to talk about this issue and politicians must let the dust settle first on the plebiscite.

The former economy minister, who is a deputy for the PFL [Liberal Front Party], will join Governor Joaquim Francisco in any alternative party.

Chile

Aylwin Hails Private Investment in Port Facilities

PY1504142693 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by Maria Angelica Rodriguez]

[Excerpts] President Patricio Aylwin yesterday dedicated Ventana Port, the first private port in the country located on the Quinteros Bay, in the Fifth Region. The Ventana Port Company, a subsidiary of Chilgener, Inc., invested approximately $35 million in the upgrading of the existing port infrastructure and the construction of leading-edge docking facilities, which include a dock made of concrete and steel and two cranes—which the president operated merely by pressing a button. The port has a load capacity of 1,500 metric tons in bulk and will be able to handle vessels with a 15 meter draft. Cargo liners of up to 60,000 metric tons will be able to take on or discharge cargo—mining and agroindustial freight, especially containers and copper. [passage omitted]

After touring the new port facilities, President Aylwin said:

[Begin recording] It has been part of my government policy to encourage and boost private investments in this area to supplement what the government is spending to improve the ports of Valparaiso, San Antonio, and San Vicent. This is why I believe that this private venture is of utmost importance for the economic development of the country. [end recording]

Leftist Party Asks Government To Resume Relations With Cuba

PY1604033693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1835 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Santiago, 14 Apr (EFE)—The Leftist Democratic Participation Movement (PDI) today asked Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma to resume diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Chile and Cuba suspended diplomatic relations because of the 11 September 1973 military coup, but consular relations were resumed in 1991.

The position of the PDI, which forms part of the governing Coalition of Parties for Democracy, was conveyed to Silva Cimma by PDI Secretary General Antonio Leal.

Leal explained to Minister Silva Cimma the need for the government of President Patricio Aylwin to conclude his presidential term in March 1994 with the full resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Leal added that the government is willing to study the issue, and understands that it is necessary "to integrate Cuba into the Latin American scene." He said that his party will continue to insist on this issue before the Foreign Ministry.

Leal also said that he commented to Silva Cimma about his recent trip to the Vatican and his meetings with high prelates on this issue.

He explained that the Vatican promotes an initiative aimed at putting an end to the blockade of Cuba, which he believes will create conditions "for a faster process of transformation and democratic openings on the island."

Leal is confident that the Bill Clinton administration will take a different attitude, and will lift or ease the restrictions on the island, which would allow a process of transformation.

Silva Cimma on Border Incident, Ties With Cuba

PY1604034393 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said today that there is concern over the death of two Chilean citizens in Argentine territory. He said the two individuals were reportedly involved in smuggling.

The event occurred in the 11th Region area near the Jeinemeni lagoon, which is located about 19 km from the Chilean border in the General Carrera region. According to the available information, Hector Vazquez and Angel Pap were shot dead by Argentine border patrol agents while they were stealing horses.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] This is the information we have. Apparently a sister of one of the two men was reportedly killed last year under similar circumstances. In other words, these people were reportedly usually involved in moving livestock across the border, although I have no evidence to prove that. [end recording]

Silva Cimma explained that although this event does not affect bilateral relations, it also does not mean Chile is not interested in clarifying the situation.

Regarding another issue, Silva Cimma denied today a report that the Chilean Government is reportedly interested in resuming diplomatic relations with Cuba.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] The information released on [words indistinct] is not true. I did meet with that gentleman, but it is not true that he officially proposed to me renewed relations with Cuba. He only talked about the fact that Cuba had recently received a cardinal—I do not know from where—and that they were interested in Cuba, but he did not make any petition. What he said is therefore not true, and it is also not true that I said I was interested in his position. [end recording]

Silva Cimma made these comments at the conclusion of a meeting with President Patricio Aylwin today, held to examine international issues and other issues in which the president was interested.

Mexico Temporarily Suspends Import of Chilean Fruit

PY1604033193 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] In a surprise move, Mexico has created obstacles to the import of Chilean fruit. Mexico has said the fruit does not comply with sanitary measures.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mexican sanitary officials have discovered the presence of the larvae of a species of moth common throughout the world, but banned in Mexico, in two cargoes of Chilean peaches and apples.

[Agriculture Minister Agustin Figueroa, identified by caption] Yes, it is true. Some larvae have appeared in our cargoes to Mexico. We immediately contacted Mexican authorities. We are cooperating closely and counting on their goodwill. At this time, however, the entry into Mexico of this type of fruit has been temporarily suspended.

[Ronald Bown, president of the Exporters Association, identified by caption] The cargo—which has been prevented from entering Mexico—affected at this time amounts to some 30,000 cartons. Over the past two weeks some 60,000 cartons have not been exported to Mexico.

[Reporter] Bown explained that 80 percent of the Chilean fruit exported to Mexico consists of grapes, which are not affected by this disease. The losses suffered due to export reductions will therefore not be considerable.

The export of kiwis and apples to Europe will suffer losses because world demand has decreased considerably. A carton of Chilean kiwis sold yesterday in Europe at $3.80, while export costs amount to $4.80. Losses could thus amount to some $20 million. Apples are experiencing a similar situation, with losses that could also amount to some $20 million.

[Ricardo Ariztia, president of the Fruit Producers Federation, identified by caption] The producers who still have fruit to sell to the export enterprises must be very aware that they run the risk of having their produce returned.

[Reporter] Ariztia indicated that the alternative is to sell the produce on the Chilean market, in order to prevent greater losses. [end recording]

Colombia

Car Bomb in Capital Kills 8, Injures 16

PA1504205293 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 2000 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] A car bomb exploded on 93rd Street at 15th Avenue. At this moment, we repeat, firemen are putting out the fire, which was caused by the explosion of a car bomb here on 93rd Street at 15th Avenue. We can say that the area was severely damaged by the explosion of this car bomb.

One can count the hundreds of windows that were shattered. At this moment, not a single undamaged window is visible. The Chamber of Commerce, which has a branch here on 93rd Street at 15th Avenue, was also damaged.

A car bomb exploded on 93rd Street at 1440 [1940 GMT] this afternoon. Windows were shattered five blocks around. Several vehicles are on fire and firemen are trying to put them out. The ambulance has arrived and the people are panicked. The explosion was very loud. Many persons are injured. The Red Cross has aided persons who were in the vehicles that were damaged.

Confirmed reports by Santa Fe de Bogota Police indicate that eight persons were killed, 16 were injured, 25 vehicles were totally damaged, and the windows of buildings for five blocks around were totally shattered.

Further on Casualties, Damage

PA1604005293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0002 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] At 1430 [1930 GMT] on 15 April, another car bomb exploded in Santa Fe de Bogota. Authorities have reported 10 dead and more than 100 wounded so far. Relief agencies are still removing the debris and are ready to assist the people who are unable to locate their relatives.

According to the explosive experts, the vehicle had been loaded with more than 50 kg of dynamite. Victims of the explosion included four members of the Pinto Chacon family and a minor, Marta Liliana Telles, who was blown to pieces. Several stores were completely destroyed, the windows of buildings as far away as five blocks were shattered, and 27 cars were destroyed. Several ambulances, the Civil Defense, police, and security agencies cordoned off the area to prevent looting and to recover the victims' bodies.

This is the ninth such attack in the country. Reports by witnesses are terrifying. Terror-stricken, people ran everywhere. The car bomb was estimated to have been loaded with 100 [number as heard] kg of dynamite. Hospitals and health centers in northern Santa Fe de Bogota could not cope with all 100 persons wounded by this new terrorist attack. Most of the wounded were struck by collapsing roofs and shards of glass.

Government Blames Escobar

PA1604002793 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 2345 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by Felipe Gomez]

[Text] The Colombian Government has blamed Pablo Escobar Gaviria for the explosion of a car bomb in Santa Fe de Bogota in the afternoon of 15 April. The explosion killed seven people, wounded more than 80 others, and caused damage estimated at several million pesos. The Council of Ministers has been called to a special meeting to consider internal unrest measures, in addition to those already in force, to face this new offensive by narcoterrorists.

A communique, issued by the Executive Branch and made public by Government Minister Fabio Villegas Ramirez, asserts that terrorists must be confronted without quarter; that authorities will not hesitate to enforce the law throughout the country; and that the government will continue its offensive against all criminal drug trafficking organizations with equal intensity and will continue its task of reinforcing the administration of justice and public force, as well as the establishment of peace in Colombia.

The government, the document said, again has been shaken by a terrorist attack the brutality of which sunk in the shadows of death a number of innocent persons. According to intelligence sources, this new terrorist action was masterminded and executed by Escobar. The government hereby expresses its concern over all citizens, businessmen, employees, their relatives, and all Santa Fe de Bogota authorities.

The communique added that this new criminal attack demonstrates the insane purpose of narcoterrorists in Colombia and underlines, today more than ever, that the people's and the government's only choice is to defeat the terrorists. The government promises the Colombian people that the criminal actions that have shed the blood

of innocent victims will be confronted by the government with determination. The government demands the population's support to eradicate terrorism from national life.

Brazilian Chancery Destroyed

PY1604135393 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The Brazilian chancery was totally destroyed by the car bomb in Bogota. The chancery is located on the eighth floor of the shopping center affected by the explosion. Five embassy employees were injured. Employees Ilsa Pinto dos Santos and Veridiana Velame Felix were hospitalized with cuts caused by broken glass. This was reported by Itamaraty spokesman Luiz Fernando Benedini. He said that Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso talked with Charge d'Affaires Flavio Bonzanini in Colombia, who believes that the attack was not against the embassy but against the shopping center. The Brazilian ambassador to Colombia is in Brazil accompanying Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin de Rubio, who is visiting Brazil. Last night after the explosion, chancery employees went to the site to collect undamaged documents and equipment. Before the explosion, an Itamaraty architect had been in the embassy to study ways to increase security in the offices. Itamaraty does not know where the new Brazilian chancery in Bogota will now operate.

Government Adopts New Measures To Tackle Crime

PA1604041093 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] On the evening of 15 April, the government adopted new measures to tackle organized crime and terrorism. Anyone committing terrorist acts against citizens will serve jail terms of up to 60 years, there will be no sentence reduction besides that granted for those who cooperate with justice, and sentences for various kinds of terrorist acts will be doubled. The government stated the decree seeks to have a dissuasive and punitive effect.

Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez urged Colombians to continue to help expose criminals. The government said the new measure seeks to punish terrorists with the greatest severity.

Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff admitted that winning the struggle against organized crime and terrorism demands citizen cooperation.

Gonzalez said the government's attitude toward narcoterrorism will allow the country to advance successfully in this struggle.

The government reaffirmed it will combat with absolute determination any form of private justice in referring to the group called Persecuted by Pablo Escobar.

De Greiff refrained from saying whether he would grant Pablo Escobar the benefits for surrendering to justice and cooperating with authorities.

Pepes Announces Resumption of Actions Against Escobar

PA1604132193 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Report on communique issued by the Persecuted by Pablo Escobar, Pepes, in Medellin on 16 April, by reporters Jairo Calle and Orlando Cadavid]

[Text] Medellin—The clandestine Persecuted by Pablo Escobar, Pepes, organization has ended the truce that it began on 4 March and resumed hostilities against Pablo Escobar Gaviria. That clandestine organization has just sent the following communique to the Emisoras Caracol station in Medellin:

We inform the general citizenry that despite our support for and determination to contribute to the process of bringing to justice those criminals at the service of Pablo Escobar, the most despicable of all human beings, the latest terrorist attacks carried out in the capital of the Republic by this demented individual have forced us to reach the following decisions:

1. From this moment, and by the general consensus of the members of our organization, we have decided to reactivate our military apparatus, because we see that Pablo Escobar's demented and Machiavellian attitude remains at its highest level. At the same time, we ask the Colombian people for their understanding, assuring them that not a single innocent citizen will be harmed by our military actions.

2. We challenge Pablo Escobar and all his henchmen to wage a face to face war that will affect only the parties involved, instead of resorting to the vile assassination of unarmed Colombians in the mistaken belief that this kind of action will convince their latest dupes that their extinct organization still has some power. Otherwise, they will oblige us to wage a face to face war without mercy against him and those close to him.

[Signed] Pepes
[Issued] Medellin, 16 April 1993

In the past few hours, the Pepes dynamited properties belonging to members of the Medellin cartel in rural sections of La Pintada in Santa Barbara, and in El Retiro and Rio Negro in the eastern and southern parts of Antioquia Department.

Former Justice Minister Investigated on Escobar Escape

PA1604124193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by Sandra Vergara]

[Text] The deputy justice minister who talked with Pablo Escobar at La Catedral Prison and the man who built La

Catedral Prison will be investigated by the prosecutor general. The two men will be treated like any other accused person, meaning they will have to be questioned.

Eduardo Mendoza de la Torre, former deputy justice minister, and building contractor (Etan Coren) have been charged with dishonest actions and embezzlement. According to the Prosecutor General's Office, Mendoza will have to explain the events surrounding Pablo Escobar's escape and the irregularities that occurred at Envigado Prison.

The questions within the process are: 1. Why did the deputy justice minister not report the luxury facilities within the prison to Justice Minister Fernando Carrillo? 2. Why did he never tell Minister Carrillo about 200 photographs showing the luxury facilities in La Catedral? 3. Why was not La Catedral a maximum security prison? 4. Why did Mendoza arrive at the prison to talk with Escobar on the night of the escape? What did he discuss or agree on with the drug trafficker?

The investigation against contractor (Etan Coren) includes these questions: 1. Why did he disregard recommendations from the 4th Brigade Commander concerning deficiencies in the prison's security? 2. Why did he not spend all the money destined for the prison's security system?

Mendoza and Coren have met for months with a Senate commission, yet they will have to take the defendant's seat starting next week.

Ecopetrol Registers Low Production Due to Terrorism

PA1504233293 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Apr 93 p 3a

[Text] The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol], the country's largest corporation, did not have a very good year last year. A total of 86 terrorist attacks affected production and exports, forcing the corporation to import gasoline to meet local demand.

The preliminary activities report, which Ecopetrol disclosed on 11 April, indicates that because of the attacks against the Cano Limon-Covenas and Colombia (Caconia-Covenas) oil pipelines, operations revenue dropped by 79 billion pesos. This amount is almost twice the corporation's total payroll for an entire year. It does not include the damage to the environment, which is unmeasurable in some cases.

However, not all is negative. Ecopetrol's direct investments, for example, increased 130 percent to 346 billion pesos. This allowed the completion of significant projects to improve oil transport and refining systems. Royalties and taxes, which the temporary halt in production also affected, totaled 250,726 billion pesos. This is a 29.3 percent increase over 1991.

The statement shows that, despite the difficulties caused by the guerrilla groups—which were especially aggressive during 1991—the total national production of crude oil registered a slight increase. In 1991 Ecopetrol produced 425,600 barrels of oil a day. In 1992, production was 438,400 barrels, for a 3-percent increase.

Despite the small growth in production and the drop in exports of byproducts, sales income was 1.8 trillion pesos, a 27-percent increase.

Regarding revenues, the statement points out that higher imports and growing labor costs, in addition to the guerrilla activity, affected income. The oil company registered earnings of 165,748 billion pesos in 1992. This amount reflects a 16.8-percent increase over 1991. Revenue was about 9 pesos for every 100 in sales.

Although income is high, it must be pointed out that in real terms, income dropped about 7 percent because inflation was 25.13 percent.

Revenue was not higher because total exports did not increase as expected due to damage to the oil production centers, which paralyzed operations for 35 days.

In 1991, Ecopetrol sold 166,100 barrels of crude and byproducts per day on the international market. In 1992 it hardly managed to sell 147,900 barrels per day. The communique adds, however, that crude oil exports were kept at about 92,000 barrels per day. Nevertheless, sales of other products such as fuel-oil and other hydrocarbides dropped from 74,100 barrels a day to 56,300 barrels, between 1991 and 1992.

Foreign currency income shows the decrease in foreign sales. In 1991, income was $954 million and in 1992 it was only $864 million.

The fact that foreign crude oil prices played a part in the 9-percent drop ($90 million) must be taken into account.

Oil transportation and production problems affected crude refinery operations, forcing an increase in gasoline imports to prevent supply shortages, which would in turn affect the company's and the country's economy.

Colombia purchased 25,300 barrels of gasoline per day in 1991. In 1992, it increased imports to 33,100 barrels per day; a 31- percent increase. Colombia did not import gasoline alone; it also bought a daily average of 2,900 barrels of crude oil in an unprecedented move to supply the refineries, as this was impossible otherwise.

These increased imports implied greater expenses; $307 million in 1992 versus $255 million in 1991, which is a 21-percent increase.

The final results, according to the financial statement, reflect the heavy payroll burden the company must carry, which are under negotiation for the next two years.

According to the report, 1992 revenues suffered because of the large amounts of money that the company had to put aside to pay for future pensions. A total of 230 billion pesos was set aside for this purpose in 1992; a 52.3-percent increase over 1991.

Total reserves for future retirement funds has reached 671 billion pesos, which is close to the amount that the Social Security fund holds for all of its affiliates.

The report says that salaries and other labor costs totaled 48.6 billion pesos in 1992, a 35-percent increase. Retirement expenses were 12.9 million pesos, a 57.7-percent increase.

The company also reported that the taxes collected for gasoline and other byproduct consumption represent an income of 327 billion pesos for 1992, which does not include income tax and royalties to be paid by Ecopetrol.

The outlook for the company situation to improve during the year depends largely on whether the guerrilla activities decrease and if a moderate agreement can be worked out with the unions for the next two years.

Paraguay

Reports on Pilcomayo River Dispute With Argentina

Army Commander Comments

PY1604014293 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Apr 93 p 16

[Text] Army Commander Division General Pedro Concepcion de la Cruz Ocampos yesterday mentioned the existence of "the risk of being suddenly harassed" by Argentina over the Pilcomayo River diversion. The commander said: "It is our duty to contemplate all contingencies so as to avoid situations that we might later regret. It is absolutely necessary to take a decisive position on this matter, once and for all, and make our presence felt strongly in our river coastal areas."

Asked about the meaning of his remarks, the commander said: "I mean harassed in the sense of creating concern among us over objectives that we might perhaps have shared from the very beginning. I am not aware of the real reasons, because there were discrepancies in the proposals to take advantage of and improve on the issue of the Pilcomayo River problem. In any case, it is our duty to contemplate all contingencies so as to avoid situations we might later regret. It is therefore absolutely necessary to take a decisive position on this matter, once and for all, and make our presence felt strongly in our river coastal areas in order to defend our national integrity and sovereignty."

When reporters insisted on knowing if there was a possibility of being harassed by the Argentines, the commander said: "Not precisely, because we count on the mediation of organizations... We would use all peaceful means possible, because we are essentially a peaceful nation. The Paraguayan spirit makes us prefer to talk about development and peace. We could hardly conceive at any time of a case of belligerence. We will adopt all peaceful means available to us to uphold our legitimate rights."

The commander also said: "If President Rodriguez orders construction work, areas cleared, or roads opened, we are ready. We have an engineering unit near the area, and could move other units on duty in the region to that zone. They could all work together in clearing operations."

While national authorities try to speed up the implementation of solutions needed by the Chaco Region as contemplated in the so-called "Pilcomayo System," the Foreign Ministry continues the search for legal mechanisms to try to convince their Argentine counterparts of the absolute necessity to fulfill obligations previously agreed upon, in order to share the Pilcomayo River without conflicts and with projects that will effectively benefit both nations.

Argentine Military Chief Arrives

PY1604020693 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 Apr 93 p 11

[Text] Just 48 hours after the frustrated Rodriguez-Menem presidential meeting, which has aggravated the crisis in Argentine- Paraguayan relations, Lieutenant General Martin Antonio Balza, chief of staff of the Argentine Armed Forces, arrived this morning to hold meetings with top national military officers and government officials to discuss the diversion of the Pilcomayo River and the antinarcotics struggle.

The visit by the top Argentine military officer is taking place at a time when bilateral relations are experiencing a serious setback due to the diversion of said river, which has prompted a number of complaints from the Paraguayan side against Argentina.

Initial reports emerging on how the Pilcomayo crisis was treated at the military meetings were contradictory. Although Lt. Gen. Balza said the Pilcomayo issue would not be discussed at this meeting, Paraguayan Army Commander Pedro Concepcion de la Cruz Ocampos confirmed that the issue would be discussed at the meetings with Paraguayan military commanders.

De la Cruz Ocampos said the Pilcomayo issue would be "confronted" at this meeting, and that the Argentine chief of staff himself had "instructions from President Menem to submit optimistic guidelines concerning our demands."

He added: "I believe, therefore, that Balza's visit will be positive, as it will be in retribution of the treatment granted to representatives of our Army."

He ruled out the possibility that the existing impasse could be transferred to the Armed Forces of the two countries, thus generating a disruption of Paraguayan-Argentine military ties.

However, Lt. Gen. Balza said that the diversion of the Pilcomayo River does not concern the military, and that those powers were, rather, vested in the Foreign Ministry. He added that all matters between Paraguay and

Argentina will be resolved in an equitable manner, satisfying the two countries' interests. "This is a subject entirely outside the jurisdiction of a chief of staff of the Army, concerning, rather, the Foreign Ministry exclusively," he said.

Issue May Be Brought Before OAS

PY1604025993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 15 Apr 93 p 15

[Text] Last night Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken said that Paraguay would bring Argentina before the OAS Permanent Council if no agreement satisfactory to Paraguay had been reached by next Monday, 19 April over the Pilcomayo River issue. Minister Frutos said that next week in Buenos Aires, Paraguayan Government representatives will hold what will probably be the last interview with Argentine negotiators before then, and if the request to seal the canal diverting the river is not honored "we will have to take another course of action."

The foreign minister added: "We would bring the issue before the OAS and request its intervention. We are, however, still carrying out bilateral negotiations." He said Paraguay will complain and demand the recognition of its sovereign rights, requesting that the OAS intervene to get Argentina to seal the canal. Frutos added that Paraguay could ask the OAS Permanent Council to convene on a short-term basis of approximately 48 hours to analyze its demands, based on international law, such as the American Convention on the Use of Rivers or the act itself signed in Argentina. Frutos commented: "Everything is in Paraguay's favor." Later he admitted he may head the Paraguayan official mission to submit the protest in Washington.

However, the formal and reiterated promises by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella reassert that Paraguay's claims regarding the Pilcomayo River will soon be honored. Paraguay has requested that Argentina—through an updated document—promise to seal the canals dug on the right-hand side of the river within the framework of an experimental technical agreement in October 1991.

The experimental canal acquired the aspect of a river, thus allowing most of the Pilcomayo's water to flow into neighboring Formosa Province.

Paraguayan Foreign Ministry Director General Jose Maria Fernandez Caceres yesterday told the media: "Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken has instructed me to travel to Buenos Aires again, to continue negotiating in a search for an agreement that would be advantageous to the two countries regarding the diversion of the Pilcomayo River."

Fernandez Caceres early this week met with Juan Jose Uranga, Argentine Foreign Ministry under secretary for Latin American foreign policy. After returning to Asuncion he resumed his activities, and briefed the foreign minister and his closest advisors about the results of his mission. He disclosed the decision made on the issue only because of the media's insistence.

Fernandez Caceres added that "although we are awaiting the Argentine Foreign Ministry's decision through Ambassador Uranga, we have agreed to continue "exchanging ideas" next Monday and Tuesday, 19 and 20 April respectively, in Buenos Aires."

Business Federation Cuts Argentine Ties

PY1604032993 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Apr 93 p 10

[Text] The Production, Industry, and Commerce Federation, Feprinco, has broken its business relations with Argentina. In last night's ordinary session, the organization's directors and members decided that they will no longer participate in missions to that country, and will not send invitations to Argentine business delegations.

With this decision, practically all the bilateral exchanges that have been consolidated or were about to be consolidated have now been frozen, until Argentina formally decides in writing to block the channel that diverts the Pilcomayo River's waters into its territory.

This was stressed by Arturo Jara Avelli, Feprinco's president, after a lengthy session of more than 3 hours.

Jara Avelli said that Feprinco unconditionally supports President Andres Rodriguez' decision to postpone the presidential summit with his colleague, Carlos Menem, which was to have taken place at the site of the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam on the Parana River, because of the Pilcomayo River situation.

He also said his organization has taken appropriate steps to submit the problem to the international organizations that look after the continent's ecological security, saying that there are reasons enough to make this petition.

In this respect he understands that all arguments will tilt the scales in Paraguay's favor, as it cannot be denied that Argentina has "unilaterally and perversely decided to build a canal to divert the Pilcomayo River, in order to obtain exclusive benefits for a large part of its territory—to the direct detriment of Paraguay's interests."

"The livestock sector is not the only one affected. It will also provoke the forced migration of indigenous populations and the extinction of wild fauna in the Paraguayan sector. Argentina has not complied with the agreement," Jara Avelli stressed.

He also said that with this action the neighboring country has violated Paraguay's rights of sovereignty in arbitrarily cutting off a source of natural resources which has historically watered the banks of the two territories, from Bolivia to its outlet into the Paraguay River.

He ratified that as of now all dealings with Argentina at the business level have been indefinitely cut. As of now,

everything will depend on the goodwill that the Argentine brothers have for Paraguay, Jara Avelli stated.

Rodriguez Creates New 'Commander of Military Forces' Post

PY1604012493 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 Apr 93 pp 12-13

[Text] This morning President Andres Rodriguez promulgated Decree No. 17,883 by which he names Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit [currently Navy commander] as commander of military forces. According to the decree the designation is made in accordance with the powers bestowed upon the chief of state by the national Constitution in its Articles 172 and 238, paragraph 9. This decision by the executive branch has prompted several reactions within the national political field, because the text of said decree is not very clear.

The decree does not provide further details on the reasons for the creation of said military post, or on the existing needs within the Armed Forces' structure to carry out this reorganization. This fact makes us suppose that President Rodriguez' decision is directly related to the imminent change of government after the 9 May elections, and that its objective is to prevent direct intervention by a civilian chief of state within the Armed Forces.

This subject has already been broadly discussed, during the National Constituent Assembly, when representatives of the different political sectors expressed their opposition to the delegation of the Armed Forces' command by the president of the Republic. Although the creation of the post of commander of military forces and the designation of Gonzalez Petit as its commander do not imply a delegation of the Armed Forces' command, analysts feel that it is a measure that seeks to reduce the power of a civilian president within the military structure.

Article 172 of the national Constitution, to which the presidential decree makes reference, states: "Public forces consist exclusively of police and military forces."

However, the other article cited, Article 238, states in its Paragraph 9: "As commander in chief of the Armed Forces, a post that he cannot delegate, he will, under law, issue military regulations and orders to the Armed Forces; organize and distribute their forces; appoint and remove the commanders of the public forces; adopt the necessary measures for national defense; and by the powers vested upon him grant military ranks to members of all branches up to colonel or its equivalent; and, with the concurrence of the Senate, award higher military ranks."

By Decree No. 17,884 President Rodriguez named Rear Admiral Flavio Alcibiades Abadie Gaona as interim Navy commander; Rear Admiral Carlos Guillermo Lopez Moreira as chief of the Navy staff; and Captain Jose Ramon Ocampos Alfaro as interim War Fleet commander.

Argentina Reportedly To Reduce Statistic Rate

PY1604025093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 15 Apr 93 p 15

[Text] Antonio Felix Lopez Acosta, International Economic Relations vice minister of the Foreign Ministry, has said that Argentina has agreed to cut the 7 percent increase that it had applied to the statistic rate, thus returning it to the previous level of 3 percent. A range of 37 items will benefit, in other words, more than 70 percent of the value of Paraguayan exports [to Argentina]. The items include meat, lumber, fruit, vegetables, and steel.

It has also been agreed to create a joint commission to evaluate the topic, including the possibility of increasing the list of products through technical cooperation, and creating mixed enterprises, in other words joint ventures [two preceding words in English] to increase the production of goods that could be marketed in the neighboring country, in addition to new products that can be incorporated into the list.

This information was provided by Lopez Acosta after he reassumed his post and after reporting to Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken during a meeting between the minister and his closest advisers—Vice Ministers Marcos Martinez Mendieta, Oscar Cabello Sarubbi, Lopez Acosta, and Director General Jose Maria Fernandez Caceres. Earlier this week, these officials headed a delegation to Argentina to discuss vital and fundamental bilateral topics such as the problems of the Pilcomayo River and the statistic rate. The main aspects and development of the negotiations were evaluated in order to adopt immediate measures and implement the pertinent instructions. Within this context, Frutos Vaesken asked Lopez Acosta to visit the Industry and Commerce Ministry to report on the "talks," but only about the statistic rate because this ministry, through Minister Ubaldo Scavone, has accepted the Argentine counterproposal. Lopez Acosta said: "Regarding Paraguay's expectations, our negotiations in Buenos Aires did not achieve all that we set out to achieve but they will lead to a final solution because the joint commission can evaluate and implement the negotiations regarding the statistic rate that was tripled from 3 to 10 percent in October 1992."

Poll Shows National Encounter Leading Presidential Race

PY1604011793

[Editorial Report] Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish on 15 April publishes, on pages 2 and 3, a 1,000-word unattributed article on the results of a poll

conducted by Vicente Brunetti with the assistance of Uruguayan expert Luis Eduardo Gonzalez between 22 March and 3 April.

Brunetti reports that 1,850 people were asked for whom they would vote in the 9 May presidential election. He says that 33.9 percent said they would vote for National Encounter candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas, 19.2 percent said they would vote for Domingo Laino of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, and 17 percent said they would vote for Juan Carlos Wasmosy of the Colorado Party. Some 28.8 percent of those questioned were still undecided.

The survey shows that 37.7 percent of those who will vote for Caballero Vargas are women while 30.7 percent are men. In the case of Laino 21.3 percent of those who said they will vote for him are men and 16.7 percent are women.

In urban centers Caballero Vargas obtained 38.6 percent while Laino obtained 17.2 percent and Juan Carlos Wasmosy 13.5 percent. Some 29.9 percent of those questioned are still undecided.

In rural areas Caballero Vargas obtained 26.7 percent while Wasmosy obtained 22.3 percent and Laino obtained 22.2 percent. Some 27.2 percent of those questioned were undecided.

Brunetti says that the survey has a 3 percent margin of error and speculates that a large percentage of those who said they are undecided are probably followers of Luis Maria Argana, of the Colorado Party, who was officially declared the loser at the Colorado Party primary.

Peru

Judicial Branch Creates Magistrates School

PY1504195393 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Apr 93 p A4

[Excerpts] The Constitution and Rules and Regulations Committee approved, on 5 April, the creation of a School for Magistrates [Academia de la Magistratura] as part of the judicial branch. It will train judges and prosecutors in all levels.

This regulation, which is included in the chapter [of the draft constitution] pertaining to the judicial branch, does not included those Supreme Court members and judges chosen through popular elections. [passage omitted]

Four articles were passed during the afternoon session. One establishes that justices of the peace will be elected by the people, thus directly linking the population with the authorities.

Magistrates will not be allowed to become involved in politics, to become labor union members, or to stage strikes.

The State grants magistrates a stable employment with a fair salary and assures them a decent lifestyle in keeping with their duties and position, among other things.

The Constitution and Rules and Regulations Committee of the Democratic Constituent Congress approved on 5 April the following articles of the new draft Constitution:

Article 20: A judge must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Be a Peruvian citizen.

2. Be a citizen who has not been disqualified from holding public office

3. Be an attorney, except for justices of the peace, as regulated by law.

4. Be a graduate from the School for Magistrates. Supreme Court members and judges chosen in a popular election might be exempt from this requirement.

5. Comply with other requirements as established by law.

Article 21: The School for Magistrates will select those who will be trained as judges and prosecutors. Only those who graduate from the School will be commissioned.

Article 22: The School for Magistrates will depend on the Judicial Branch. Its structure, administration, and curricula are established in the law.

Article 23: Judges will be chosen by popular election. The election and other aspects of their duties, training, term in office, and other requirements will be regulated by law.

Article 24: Their specific duties are incompatible with other public or private activities. Higher training courses and other cases established in the law are exempted. Judges will only receive their salaries as assigned in the budget. Those stemming from teaching and other exceptions provided by the law are exempted from this regulation.

Article 25: Magistrates may not engage in politics, become labor union members, or stage strikes.

Article 26: The State offers the following to magistrates:

1) They will be independent, subject only to the Constitution and to the law.

2) Stability and unremovability from their posts as long as they behave correctly and are capable. They may not promoted or transferred without their concurrence.

3) A salary that will assure them a decent lifestyle in keeping with their mission and position is guaranteed.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister on Meetings With Argentine, Russian Ministers

PY1404201793 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu confirmed at noon today that tomorrow's meeting with his Argentine counterpart, Guido Di Tella, will not be held on Martin Garcia Island.

After participating in a ceremony of tribute at the Plaza de la Bandera for those who fell defending their country, Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu emphasized that the meeting would have an open agenda.

Abreu also mentioned a meeting with a Russian Government representative in which a Russian debt, resulting from the sale of Uruguayan wool, was discussed.

Emphasizing that the meeting with his Argentine counterpart, scheduled for tomorrow, would finally be held in our capital, Abreu said:

[Begin recording] [Abreu] No. After some organizational problems, a decision was made to ... [cpauses] We will have the pleasure of receiving Minister Di Tella and his delegation in Uruguay. We will meet tomorrow afternoon with an open agenda. We will discuss common issues in our bilateral relations. The following issues are essential for Uruguay: Dredging the Martin Garcia canal; the fishing interests linked to the EC agreement with Argentina; the ships' flag system in the River Plate; the gas pipeline; the Salto Grande [hydroelectric power plant]; and trade issues linked to CAUCE, the Argentine-Uruguayan Agreement on Economic Cooperation.

[Unidentified reporter] An open, but busy agenda.

[Abreu] Exactly, busy and open. This is the inauguration of a relationship that must be permanent and involve the greatest honesty, flexibility, and pragmatism possible because, for Uruguay, bilateral relations with Argentina are a priority. These relations are important and must be close. These relations must be regulated occasionally so that they will not become negative.

[reporter] Talking about closeness and sentiments, communism is losing international prestige yet, nevertheless, we are resuming trade contacts with those countries. [Defense] Minister Brito yesterday told us about his meetings in the PRC. An envoy from the former Soviet Union is also being received.

[Abreu] Yes. Yesterday we received the Russian Federation foreign economic relations minister who told us of the Russian Federation's inability to pay for Uruguayan wool exports and expressed its desire for some kind of compensatory offer, basically involving the delivery of capital goods or materials for energy production. We are awaiting their proposal so that we may study it and see how Uruguay's aspirations, involving the Russian Federation meeting its obligations, may be fulfilled. [end recording]